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ANDHRA BEST STATE TO DO BUSINESS: GOVT RANKINGS

Andhra has topped the latest ease of doing business rankings, prepared by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

U.P. AT NUMBER 2, TELANGANA DROPS TO 3RD

Uttar Pradesh, which ranked 12th in 2018, has come second in the 2019 rankings, while Telangana, which was second, has slipped to the third position. Madhya Pradesh (4th), Jharkhand (5th), Chhattisgarh (6th), Himachal Pradesh (7th), Rajasthan (8th), West Bengal (9th) and Gujarat (10th) are the others states in the top 10 | **P7, 10, 12**

K'TAKA SLIPS TO 17TH, KERALA TO 28TH

- Karnataka dropped from 8th to 17th position. Tamil Nadu ranked 14th, slightly bettering its previous year's rank of 15th
- Kerala slipped seven places to 28th while Odisha came 34th
- The ranking is based on implementation of the Centre's Business Reform Action Plan 2018-19, which comprises 181 reform points

12th

RANK FOR DELHI, UP FROM 23RD IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Insurance body moves SC against private hospitals for 'profiteering'

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

THE alleged profiteering by private hospitals in India through the treatment of Covid-19 patients has forced the statutory body of insurance companies to seek the Supreme Court's intervention.

In an affidavit filed before the apex court a few days ago, the General Insurance Council (GIC) alleged that private hospitals are overcharging insured patients, even in cases where there are no complications or pre-existing illnesses. The GIC said its members have received more than one lakh Covid-related insurance claims so far.

It warned that reckless profiteering by private hospitals, if left unchecked, will lead to insurance premiums shooting up in the near future. While there have been many complaints of private hospitals overcharging Covid-19 patients, this is the first time an insurance body has expressed concern. "It is respectfully submitted that in order to bring confidence and to have clarity on the billing structure, there is a need for proper monitoring of the treatment costs by the private hospitals and take suitable action against the violators," the affidavit said.

The plea cites cases of hospitals overcharging insured patients. One of the cases mentioned in the affidavit is that of a Chennai hospital, which billed ₹14 lakh for the Covid treatment, including 35-day hospitalisation, of an insured person. When objected by the insurance company, the final cost, was brought down to less than ₹4.5 lakh. The GIC also alleged that private hospitals are charging higher than normal rates for consumables like PPE kits. **P9**

Covid: India to overtake Brazil

India is all set to overtake Brazil to become the world's second-worst Covid-hit country

Top three

USA	63.98 lakh
Brazil	40.91 lakh
India	40.23 lakh

86,432

New cases between Friday and Saturday morning. This is more than the total Covid-19 cases reported in mainland China since the outbreak in December 2019

70,072 recoveries since Friday morning

1,089 deaths

52%

of all Covid-19 deaths in the last 24 hours reported from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

ACTIVE CASES **8.46 LAKH**

RECOVERED **31.07 LAKH**

DEATHS **69,561**

9,746 New positive cases

9,746 Fresh recoveries

TOTAL CASES 3,89,232

6,298 Total Deaths

2,83,298 Total discharges

FULL COVERAGE P4

Source: Union Health Ministry

India draws the red line, nudges China to behave

Defence minister Rajnath Singh tells his Chinese counterpart to learn to respect LAC, avoid making attempts to change status quo

MAYANK SINGH AND PUSHKAR BANAKAR @ New Delhi

INDIA did not blink once during the two-and-a-half-hour intense meeting with China on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Moscow. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was as direct as possible during his interaction with his Chinese counterpart General Wei Fenghe, stating that Indian forces are determined to protect the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Drawing attention to the fact that Indian troops have always taken a responsible approach towards border management, Singh said China's aggressive behaviour and attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo were in violation of the bilateral agreements.

According to experts, Rajnath Singh's is a strong message to China not to escalate matters any further as India has the capability to protect its interests and will not hesitate to hit back if its national interests are hurt.

Indian forces' strong response to the PLA's aggression has rattled the Chinese leadership, says Lt Gen V K Chaturvedi (Retd). "The Chinese never expected such response from the Indian military, which not only has dug in its heels along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) but is also strengthening its positions."

He added India has successfully blocked China's 'salami slicing tactics' and told the Chinese to go back to positions before the end of April.

Talking to *TNIE* on condition of anonymity, a serving Army officer said the Defence Minister's statement has reaffirmed India's stand on the territorial dispute, standoff and disengagement. "The statement is a clear-cut red line on how much is acceptable and what is non-negotiable," the officer said.

Meanwhile, in a predictable response, Beijing blamed New Delhi for the LAC flare-up. "The relations between the two countries have been severely affected by the border issue. The cause and truth of the current tension are very clear, and the responsibility lies entirely with India," said Wei Fenghe.

A former diplomat, who did not wish to be named, said it was important that India stated its position. "We have seen statements from many quarters. The latest statement shows that India is not going to listen to China. We will put our foot down and stand up to them," he said. **P9**

'SITUATION IS VERY NASTY'

US President Donald Trump has said the situation along the India-China border has been 'very nasty' and that he would love to get involved and help. "We stand ready to help. If we can do anything, we would love to get involved," he said

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during a meeting with Uzbekistan's Minister of Defence, Major General Kurbanov Bakhodir Nizamovich, in Moscow on Saturday | **PTI**

China abducted five Indians from Arunachal Pradesh: Cong MLA

China's People's Liberation Army has abducted five people from Arunachal Pradesh, Congress MLA Ninong Ering said on Saturday. Narrating the incident on Twitter, the lawmaker claimed a similar incident had happened a few months ago. According to local media reports, the incident occurred at Nacho forest area in Upper Subansiri district. The persons - Toch Singkam, Prasat Ringling, Dongtu Ebiya, Tanu Baker and Ngaru Diri – had gone out for hunting, which is a very common practice in the area. Two other villagers managed to escape and informed others, a local newspaper reported, quoting the relative of one of those abducted **P9**

Indian Army rescues 3 Chinese nationals who lost their way

Amid the standoff in eastern Ladakh with the PLA, the Indian Army recently came to the rescue of three stranded Chinese citizens at the Sikkim border and assisted them in their safe return. "The three Chinese citizens lost their way near Sikkim at an altitude of 17,500 feet on Sept 3. The Indian troops helped them return safely," said the Indian Army. The Army personnel were prompt in protecting them – two men and a woman — from the vagaries of extreme altitude. "Realising the danger to their lives in sub-zero temperatures, the soldiers immediately reached out with medical assistance, food and warm clothes," said the Army

Ragini, 11 others named in Sandalwood drug case FIR

BALA CHAUHAN & MANJU SHETTAR @ Bengaluru

THE Central Crime Branch (CCB) police have named 12 people in the First Information Report (FIR) related to the contraband drugs case in Sandalwood. They have already arrested actor Ragini Dwivedi, her friend and RTO clerk Ravishankar, realtor Rahul Shetty and an event manager, Viren Khanna, and booked them under Sections 21, 21C, 27A, 27B and 29B of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. The four arrested were taken for medical, including Covid test, after their arrest.

The FIR names Shiva Prakash Chappi, Ragini, Viren Khanna, Prashanth Ranka, Vaibhav Jain, Aditya Alva, Loum Pepper Samba, Prashanth Raju, Ashwini, Abhiswami, Rahul Thonshe and Vinay. It, however, does not mention the name of Ravishankar. Chappi works in the Transport Department and is the prime accused in the case. He is said to be a former friend of Ragini.

Thonshe is a close friend of Kannada actor Sanjjanaa Galrani. Samba is an African national and an alleged drug peddler, who used to supply contraband drugs to Ravishankar and also to some celebrities. He was also arrested under the NDPS Act.

The CCB has seized some contraband drugs, primarily marijuana, from the premises of some of the accused and the samples have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for testing the purity of the drug, said a highly placed source. Meanwhile, Ragini has reportedly denied any connection with the narcotic drugs network and is not forthcoming with any information, added the officer. **P5**

THREE ARRESTED, DRUGS WORTH ₹44 LAKH SEIZED

The CCB on Friday raided a house in KR Puram and arrested three drug peddlers — A Subramani (26), Vidhus (31) and Shejin (21). They also seized contraband drugs worth Rs 44 lakh. Vidhus is a postgraduate in Computer Science from the UK while Subramani studied in a private school in Indiranagar and Shejin is a final-year student of hotel management.

RAIDS CONDUCTED IN BELAGAVI, C'DURGA

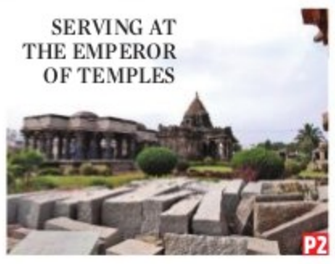
Ready-to-harvest cannabis plants, worth about Rs 2 crore, were destroyed by the police at Odeyarahalli village in Rampura taluk of Chitradurga district on Saturday. Three people have been arrested in this connection. In Belagavi, the police raided four locations and recovered 123.5 kg of ganja and arrested seven peddlers.

INTERVIEW

KARJOL ON RESERVATION

In the light of the Supreme Court verdict on the issue of reservation within quota, Deputy CM Govind B Karjol says the government will wait for what the larger bench of the top court has to say on the matter. P3

SERVING AT THE EMPEROR OF TEMPLES



P2

120 acres of forest land worth ₹800cr recovered

MEERA BHARDWAJ @ Bengaluru

A parcel of the encroached land that was recovered by the government

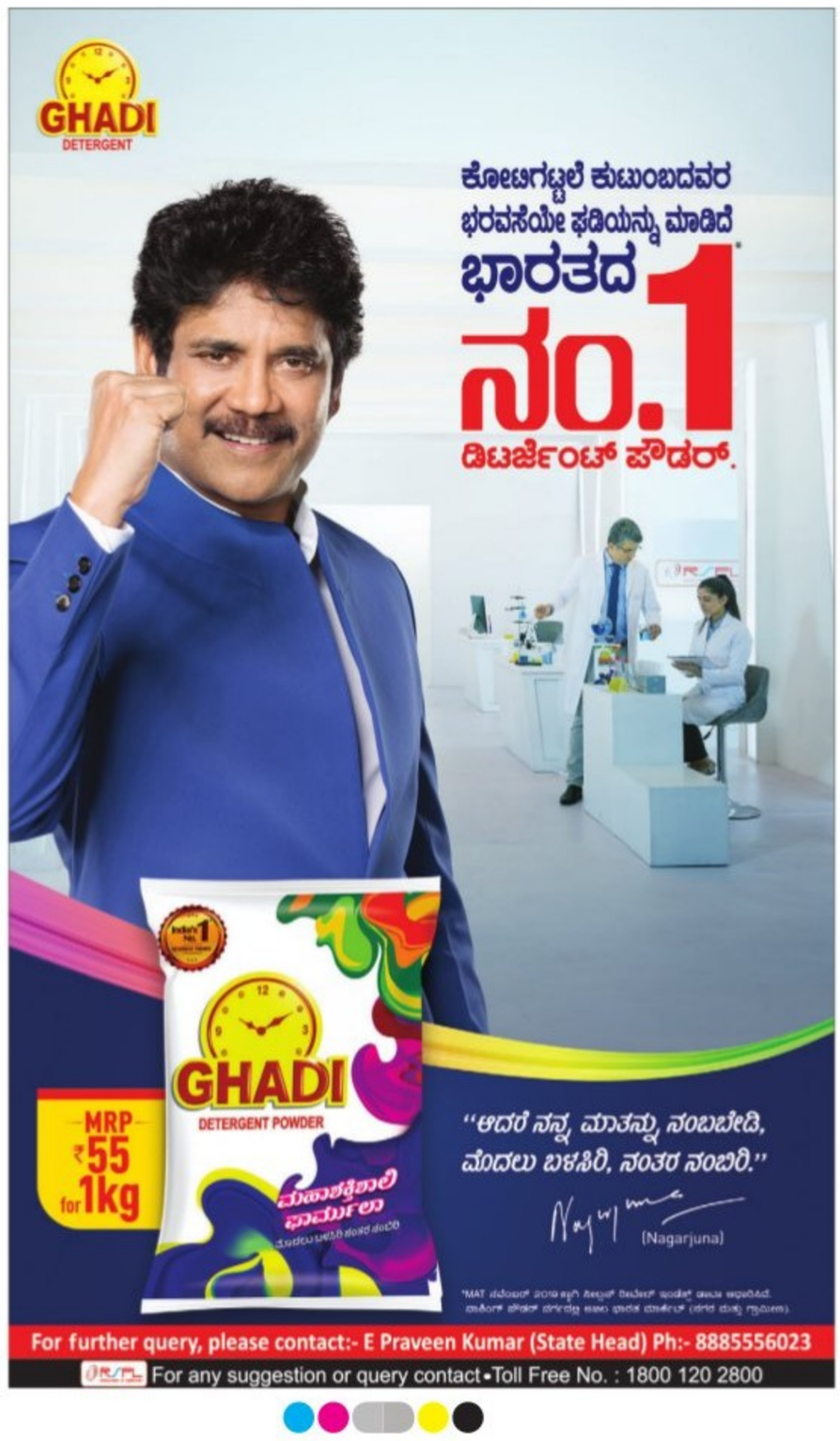
FOR the past 20 days, it has been hectic for the forest officials as they have started recovering encroached forest land in the Anekal Range. Till now, the Karnataka Forest Department has recovered a whopping 120 acres, worth Rs 700-800 crore, on the fringes of Bannerghatta National Park (BNP).

The department moved to recover the lands after the High Court vacated the stay last year on a slew of writ petitions filed by encroachers.

Forest officials said 180 acres had been encroached upon in Bhootanahalli Minor Forests (MF) to form a sprawling 'Athithi Layout' with about 300 sites sold to people under the garb of it being a revenue land. Another 60 acres in this illegal layout still remain to be recovered.

These forest lands were encroached upon by the owner of a college, a corporator, realtors, one retired DSP, land developers and politicians. Each of them had encroached upon about 10-20 acres. Overcoming all political pressures and threats, the department started the process of recovery on August 17 and is still at it.

The recovery process started under the directions of Chief Conservator of Forests Gokul, DCF Anthony Mariappa and ACF G Venkatesh. **P7**



WITH THIS ISSUE

PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

SPREADING KNOWLEDGE

This village of teachers redrew learning curve

SUNIL PATIL @ Belagavi

THIS village seems to be celebrating Teacher's Day every day. Welcome to Inchal, the 'village of teachers', where there is at least one teacher in every household and hundreds of students down the years to appreciate their work.

Inchal in Saundatti taluk, with a population of about 10,000, has about 900 teachers working in government-aided schools. There are also some others who are working in the Education Department. And that's not all. Hundreds of Bachelor of Education and Diploma in Education graduates are awaiting placements and will add to the number.

A few decades ago, Inchal was a backward village haunted by murders, dacoity and other criminal activities and school education had become a nightmare. But then, the tide changed.

The head of the Inchal Mutt, Shivanand Bharati, along with three teachers, founded the Shivanand Bharati Education Society in 1975 with the objective of educating every child in the village. The Society established a high school in 1975, a PU college in 1982 and DEd college in 1985.

In the beginning, there were just a handful of students enrolled. But today, over a thousand students are being imparted education.

Satar Ismail Sab, a teacher from the village, said, "Shivanand Bharati Swamiji showed us that a big revolution can be brought about if one takes up the challenge to change society".

Srikanth Dattatreya Pujar takes up the role of both priest and tour guide of the Itagi Mahadeva Temple | EXPRESS

SERVING AT THE EMPEROR OF TEMPLES

For generations, Dharmadhikaris of Itagi temple have been from this priest's family

MEERA BHARDWAJ @Yelburga

THE architectural legacy of the Western Chalukyas, a dynasty that ruled central Karnataka for over 200 years, often receives little attention. But the beautiful Itagi Mahadeva Temple in Koppal district has found a storyteller in Shrikanth Dattatreya Pujar, whose family have been Dharmadhikaris of the temple for generations.

Built in 1112 CE, the sprawling and intricately carved soapstone temple is dedicated to Shiva. It was badly encroached upon before the Archaeological Survey of India took over in 2005 and gradually began to restore it. But for 25 years, Srikanth Dattatreya Pujar has pretty much run a one-man show, carrying out religious rituals and doubling as a tour guide.

A science graduate, Pujar quit his job at a private firm in Dharwad in 1996 to continue the family tradition of serving as Dharmadhikaris of the temple while also cultivating onion, jowar, wheat, groundnut and pulses on their 50-acre land.

He traces his family's roots to Mahadeva, a Dandanayaka (army commander) of King Vikramaditya II, who was responsible for the construction of the temple.

"We are continuing the tradition until today. My uncle's family and ours take turns to perform rituals every alternate year," Pujar says. His family was recognized as the Dharmadhikari for the temple for eight generations according to a 1956 government document.

On the day The New Sunday Express visited the "Emperor of Temples", as the Itagi temple is known, Pujar was busy with a homa. When a large group of students turned up, Pujar, who is a guide certified by the Tourism Department, narrated the temple's history.

Long ago, the place was called Ishtagapuri, which changed to Itige, then to Itagi. "In fact, Itagi is built over many temples. If they are to be excavated, the whole place would have to be dug up. One can find proof of this in the carved doorways of some of houses," said the 50-year-old father of four.

Coming back to the Mahadeva temple, which is one of the finest examples of Kalyani Chalukyan architecture, Pujar says, "According to a stone inscription, 400 Brahmin families had settled here and were experts in 64 subjects such as scholastic studies, poetry, music, Vedic studies, etc. The result was a temple with 64 soapstone pillars with intricate carving in every nook and corner, be it ceilings, pillars or walls. It took 550 architects many years to design and have the temple built."

A partly burnt inscription found in Hampi says the temple was renovated in the 16th century during the rule of the last king of Vijaynagar and that some additions were also made to it.

Behind the temple is Kheelabanda, a unique 80-ft deep open step-well. Some years ago the ASI had the well desilted, cleaned and renovated, leaving the water crystal clear. In 2010, the ASI developed a huge garden around the temple. The Shivatheertha lake though is still in a poor condition as authorities have to remove encroachments and desilt it.

Despite the lack of tourist facilities, the black-pillared structure has drawn many visitors, especially during Shivarathri and other festivals. Although there are few visitors due to the pandemic, Pujar continues to conduct poojas.

"We can contribute spiritually to the temple which has great historical significance, but it is in the midst of residential colonies. There are a lot of problems, especially encroachments. Many have been removed, but there is a lot to be done to make this architectural marvel a tourist destination. We have no facilities – even basic infrastructure like drinking water, public toilets, restaurants, hotels, etc are not there in this village," he says.

> The Mahadeva temple is mentioned in an inscription as a King of Temples and its architecture is unique in Karnataka. The pillars are of different varieties. Here, the sabhamantapa niche holds many sculptures of Mahadeva Dandanayaka family's members. These are his father, mother and others. Such a panel is rare in Karnataka.
>
> Dr S Y Somashekar, Associate Professor and Deputy Registrar, Kannada University, Hampi

K RATHNA @Mysuru

WITH a surgeon's knife and needle in hand, he gets to work on a pencil lead! A couple of hours later, the graphite has magically transformed into something or someone familiar. Sometimes, the face of a celebrity shows up, an actor grins or there is a politician waiting to speak, all from the lead in its new avatar. With flawless dexterity and eye for detail, S Nanjundaswamy has created a niche for himself in the unique arena of pencil lead sculpture.

The 39-year-old Mandya native tested art waters in childhood. Self-taught, Nanjundaswamy has not entered an art school as a pupil, nor has been under a guru's tutelage. Being an SSLC dropout, he managed to master the art of tattooing, eventually starting a studio, Krishna Kale Tattoo Art, in Mysuru. His tryst with miniature art involving pencil leads, however, awoke while sharpening a pencil to create a sketch in 1999. Picking up a pencil lead, Nanjundaswamy first practised with faces, then moved to letters, animals, birds, and other sculptures.

Until today, he has carved more than 1,200 pencils leads, turning them into miniatures of animals, birds, faces of celebrities – film actors, Jnanpith awardees, politicians, writers, cricketers, Gods and Goddesses, landmarks and other designs. The smallest among his artwork include the Alphabet and Lord Ganesha, both using 0.5-mm pen pencil leads.

Nanjundaswamy uses a magnifying glass to carve on 0.5 mm pencils for better detailing, while 10B and 12B pencils are frequently used for carving faces. Meanwhile, he also stresses on finer points that are relevant to a concerned person. For instance, while carving actor Darshan's face, he includes the hand gesture of a 'Thumbs Up', symbolic of the star.

During the early days, it would take him at least 10 days to complete a face, but now, he finishes the job in two hours. Also, earlier, he would spend 2-3 hours studying the images of people and creatures, before embarking on carving their miniatures on lead. But, today, he can work from his own memory and creativity. "Carving on pencil leads needs a lot of concentration and patience. The material is very delicate and must be handled carefully, lest it break. But practice leads to perfection," he says.

Interestingly, none of his art pieces are sold, while many have been gifted. Some have approached him to get their faces replicated as miniatures on lead, which he obliges free of cost.

Over the years, social media, the Press and interactions with art lovers have gotten the artist recognition. Pragna, an art lover, says, "Nanjundaswamy's work is very creative. Carving on such tiny leads would be very difficult. One needs a magnifying glass to notice the fine detailing and workmanship."

"There are only a few artists in the country who carve sculptures on pencil lead, and I feel happy for being one among them, and honoured when people appreciate my work. As this art is not so familiar, I wish to create awareness about it," says an elated Nanjundaswamy.

Miniature artist S Nanjundaswamy chisels away at a pencil lead

Creating a miniature world on a pencil tip

A pencil lead work depicting Kannada actor Dr Rajkumar

IN THE RECORD BOOKS

Nanjundaswamy's work on creating Mysuru's Chamarajendra Wadiyar Circle using pencil leads was accepted in the India Book of Records in 2017. This isn't all, the artist is known for testing his skills with even greater marvels, such as carving all the eight Jnanpith awardees' faces on a single 12B pencil within six hours, the Mysuru Dasara procession, and nine Ganeshas and 54 snakes on one lead.

MUCH DELAY

AFTER 25 YEARS, WHITEFIELD LINE QUADRUPLING

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE first physical structure in connection with the rail line quadrupling project between Bengaluru Cantonment and Whitefield has finally come up – a 200 metre retaining wall between Baiyappanahalli and Bengaluru Cantonment stations. The project, sanctioned in 1995-96 by the Railway Board, is finally getting off the ground.

The Rs 493-crore project aims at increasing the two existing tracks along the 25-km route to four lanes so that more trains can run. For over two decades, there has been a huge demand from the IT crowd to increase rail connectivity along this route with stoppages at Hoodi Halt, K R Puram, Baiyappanahalli, and Whitefield, for better connectivity to their offices en route.

Chief Engineer (West) Constructions of SWR R K Singh, told TNSE, "The stretch between Baiyyappanahalli and Cantonment runs 6.5 km. We have completed 200 metres recently and work is on at a fast pace. We have a deadline of March 2022."

The entire stretch from Cantonment to Whitefield will be ready by December 2022. "Work will begin there and both works will go on simultaneously. We need to put in place over 50 bridges," the Singh said.

Contractor P J Baby will be getting the retaining walls, earthing and other works done. "Tenders need to be called for platforms and station construction. A separate suburban terminal is also coming up at Cantonment," he added.

Transportation expert Sanjeev Dyammanavar said the quadrupling project and the automatic signalling project will be a boon for rail commuters. "Punctuality of trains would improve. More trains can be run along the Bengaluru-Chennai route. There is only one level crossing near Baiyappanahalli station which needs to be removed. When that is done, it will be free traffic flow between Cantonment and Whitefield," he said.

Work on railway line quadrupling project begins | EXPRESS

Residents cry foul over Hebbal Lake encroachments

PREEJA PRASAD @Bengaluru

THE Hebbal Lake encroachments have been getting on the nerves of residents of the area with 3-5 garages already being put up in the buffer zone. The city's civic body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike had ordered that encroachments be removed to which the encroachers had also agreed.

However, residents are crying foul as the encroachers continue to remain despite the order. Kishore Alwa, a resident, he said that the encroachers have been calling the land as "their own land."

Another resident, Venugopal Shetty, had written to Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to look into the issue. "The Hebbal Lake is the gateway to Bengaluru for visitors, and we request that this eyesore be removed," he said, adding that despite repeated reminders to officials, no action has been taken so far.

Mohan Krishna, chief engineer (lakes), told TNIE that the lake is under the purview of the Forest department. "We have issued a notice so as to investigate the issue, and will find out if there is any violation. By Tuesday, we will be able to get all the details and then issue a notice to the encroachers in case of any violation," he said.

> **We have also issued a notice so as to investigate the issue, and will find out if there is any violation. By Tuesday, we will be able to get all the details**
>
> Mohan Krishna, chief engineer (lakes), BBMP

Safety first as Namma Metro gets set to roll

The BMRCL is all set to resume operations from September 7 after a gap of five months. Keeping safety precautions in mind, a hand-reading thermostat has been placed at the entrance of each station. Passengers should place their hand at a 3-cm distance from the thermostat, and only after it reads 'access granted', can commuters enter the station. From September 11, Metro services will be functional between 7 am and 9 pm. Until then, Purple Line trains will run from Monday onwards between 8am and 11 am, and 4.30pm and 7.30pm. Green Line trains will run from September 9 onwards. **ENS**

Mayor inspects smart parking, bus priority lane

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

MAYOR M Goutham Kumar and BBMP officials inspected the ongoing smart parking zone and bus priority lane works in Central Bengaluru on Saturday.

The Mayor visited Vittal Mallya Road and the Lowri Junction-Central Silk Board stretch. "In all, 85 areas were identified for smart parking zones. So far, one is completed on Kasturba Road and more are coming up on Vittal Mallya Hospital Road, MG Road, St Marks Road, Museum Road, Church Street and Cunningham Road," Kumar added. The BBMP aims to earn Rs 31.60 crore from parking fees.

The Palike is working with the traffic police department to create bus priority lanes on 12 roads. A bus priority lane has been created on the Lowri Junction-Central Silk Board stretch, at an investment of Rs 15 crore. The Mayor said, more funds will be allocated to decongest the city.

EXPRESS READ

Trains cancelled due to lockdown in West Bengal

Bengaluru: Railways has cancelled a pair of trains from Sunday in view of the complete lockdown in West Bengal on September 7, 11 and 12. According to an official statement, the Yesvantpur-Howrah Superfast Express Special, scheduled to have left Yesvantpur on September 6, 10 and 11, and the Howrah-Yesvantpur Express, which would have left Howrah on September 11 and 12, have been cancelled. **ENS**

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation will introduce 34 Vajra air-conditioned buses from Monday. These buses will ply from Kempegowda Bus Station to Hosakote, Attibele and Kadugodi. Also, some buses will ply from Banashankari TTMC to Hebbal and ITPL, and Central Silk Board to Hebbal

'Will wait for bigger SC bench order on quota in quota'

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

DEPUTY Chief Minister Govind B Karjol, who also holds the Social Welfare portfolio, speaks to *The New Sunday Express* on the recent Supreme Court order on reservation within reservation and also the Sadashiva Commission report. Here are the excerpts.

The Supreme Court has now given the states the responsibility of responding to reservation within reservation. How do you view it in the wake of the demand to implement the Sadashiva Commission report?
The Supreme Court has taken up the reservation issue and pronounced its verdict. But then, in the same order they also say it needs to be referred to a larger bench. We will wait for what the larger bench has to say. It is a very delicate issue. We will take it before the cabinet. I will not respond as an individual, but the entire government under Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa will give its opinion and we will take it up at the government level.

Former Union Minister K H Muniyappa had called for a meeting of SC leaders where he said the state legislature has to take up the issue and pass it. He also said that the state should urge the Centre to pursue it proactively. What is your opinion?
We will discuss it at length at the cabinet and we will also consult legal experts.

The Andhra Pradesh government has raised the issue a few times in the past and it was decided by the Supreme Court in 2004.
The present situation has arisen after some communities from Punjab, who were aggrieved, went before the Supreme Court.

The Sadashiva commission report has never been published and no one knows for sure what its recommendations are, except for what appeared in the media 20 years ago. Some are demanding that the report be tabled and discussed in public domain. What do you have to say? Some suggest that it be placed before the House.
It has not been done till now, and earlier governments too did not do it. We will decide on the issue by taking it up before the cabinet and government.

Q&A
GOVIND B KARJOL

Experts suggest that reservation was earlier an issue before the President of India and by bringing it before the states, it is being politicised. What do you have to say?
I firmly believe that it should not be politicised and I'm not interested in what others are saying. Our governments, both at the Centre and the state, are committed to social justice. We will study what the order says and also analyse it anthropologically.

There are 101 castes under the Scheduled Castes, who should all benefit from the reservation equitably. But the complainant is that some have cornered a lion's share of benefits. Your comments.
Let's look at the origin of reservation. It was introduced to lift the people who were oppressed because of their social, educational and financial situations. To fulfil the constitutional obligation, all 101 castes should benefit 100 per cent from reservation.

Do you have some data on castes and sub-castes that have benefited from reservation over the years that can give a clearer picture?
I don't know if it has been done. I will verify it and come back. Give me some time.

A senior parliamentarian has warned that as castes and sub-castes under SCs start warring over the issue, a third party could benefit.
It is not important what they say. But all 101 castes should get the benefits. Some are grabbing the benefits. Justice should be done.

Parents must pay term fee, says Suresh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

Teachers stage a protest outside the Shikshakara Sadana on the occasion of Teachers' Day, in Bengaluru on Saturday | MEGHANA SASTRY

ON Teacher's Day, around 100 teachers took out a protest as part of the 'Teacher's Black Ribbon Day' after 55,000 teachers lost their jobs in Karnataka and over a lakh are being paid less than 50% of their salaries.

According to D Shashi Kumar, General Secretary, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools, said, "The condition of teachers is pathetic across the state."

Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar met the teachers at the Shikhakara Sadana building in the city. The minister's office later released an order, saying that all parents should pay the term fees without fail. Earlier, he had ordered that schools must not force parents to pay the fees. Additionally, the order also stated that there will be no hike in school fees this year.

Shashi Kumar said there is no clarity on last year's pending fees. "Several parents have decided not to seek admission for their their children this year for nursery and primary classes. They are planning to do so only next year and schools are now facing a lot of difficulty in paying the salaries of teachers," he said.

Phani Kumar, media advisor to the minister, told TNSE that there will be no further clarification on the fees. "Parents can pay the term fees and following that, it will be at the discretion of schools."

Minister: Have roadmap for re-opening of schools

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

EDUCATION Minister S Suresh Kumar on Saturday hit back at the Opposition Congress that has launched a campaign across the state accusing the government of not having a clear road-map to reopen schools, help students or teachers.

"Government schools cannot conduct online classes. It is not within our reach and now we are also not interested in it. In online education, students will not have a direct one-to-one interaction with students. That is the reason we have started Vidyagama and everyone except Congress leaders have understood the importance of the initiative," the minister said.

In all districts, the number of students being enrolled in government schools has increased. That is the reality, the minister said responding to the Congress' allegations that a number of students are discontinuing their education as they are not able to be part of the online education system.

The minister, however, said teachers in private unaided schools have not received their salary in the last four months and are asking for a special package, which comes to around Rs 250 crore. Except the package, the government is trying to provide all possible help to teachers by involving members of teachers' organizations, he said.

"We have a very clear roadmap and I am willing to explain it in detail to Congress leaders. Our teachers are also very clear about the road-map and they are working accordingly," he added.

EXPRESS READ

Attest rural area certificate of student: HC

Bengaluru: Coming to the rescue of a student from a village in Bantwal taluk of Dakshina Kannada district, the Karnataka High Court has directed the Block Educational Officer (BEO) to attest a 'rural area' certificate so that he can claim an engineering seat under the rural quota. A division bench of Justice B V Nagarathna and Justice Ravi V Hosmani passed the interim order in this regard recently, saying that the order is subject to the result of the petition filed by D Adarsha Bhat. Adarsha, who studied from 2008 to 2018 at a school at Vittal Kasaba, moved the court as the BEO had declined to issue the certificate. ENS

Cabinet expansion likely soon: Nagaraj

Malur (Kolar): The state cabinet expansion is likely in the next 15 days, said MLC M T B Nagaraj, here on Saturday.

After inaugurating a marriage hall at Chikka Tirupathi, Nagaraj said by next week, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa will visit New Delhi and take the approval from the party's central high command to carry out the exercise.

Replying to a question, the former MLA said it's the decision of the high command to accommodate Legislative Council members to the cabinet and hinted that he will become a minister. ENS

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Engagement of Manpower for the Centre of Excellence for Translation and Life Writing

Applications are invited for the following positions in Centre of Excellence (CoE) for "Translation and Life Writing" under School of languages of the University, Bhubaneswar (Sponsored by OHEPEE, Department of Higher Education, Odisha).

- Post Doctorial Fellow (PDF): One (01)
- Research Assistant: Two (02)
- Office Assistant: One (01)

Last date of application: **15.09.2020**
For details please visit our University website: **www.rdwuniversity.nic.in.**
Sd/- Coordinator. CoE

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020
Tender No. BDA/2020-21/EL/Work_Indent1442 Date: 05.09.2020

INVITATION FOR SHORT-TERM TENDERS

BDA invites short-term tenders for **Providing External Electrical Infrastructure work for arranging Power supply to the proposed BDA Housing Projects at Gunjur, Bengaluru.**

Calendar of Events : (1) Date for download of tender documents from: **08.09.2020. (2)** Last date and time for receipt of tender Queries: **14.09.2020, 11.00 hrs. (3)** Date and time of Pre-bid meeting: **14.09.2020, 16.00 hrs. (4)** Last date and time of submission by uploading the filled tender document: **21.09.2020, 17.00 hrs. (5)** Date and time of opening of tenders (Technical bid) : **23.09.2020, 17.00 hrs.**

For more details please refer e-procurement portal website: **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact at office of the Executive Engineer (Elec.), BDA, T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru. Contact No.: +91 9845630164.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele.),
Electrical Division, BDA, Bengaluru
BDA/PRO/TN/22/2020-21

Maha Rashtra Apex Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, Front Wing North Block, Manipal Centre, Dickenson Road, Bengaluru - 560 042
CIN: L85110KA1943PLC001177, Website: www.maharashtraapex.com, Email-mracl.ho@manipal.com, Tel: 080-40313131

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ('LODR'), a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on **Monday, 14th September 2020** inter-alia, to consider and approve Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2020. This information is also available on the Company's website: **www.maharashtraapex.com** and also on the website of BSE Ltd., **www.bseindia.com** and NSE Ltd., **www.nseindia.com**

By Order of the Board
for **MAHA RASHTRA APEX CORPORATION LTD.,**
Sd/- **(J M PANDAY)**
COMPANY SECRETARY
Place: Mumbai
Date: 05.09.2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the below mentioned original documents of title pertaining to lands situated at Gunjur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District, which was owned by my client, Mr.G.V. Chandrashekar son of late G.T. Venkataswamy Reddy, have been misplaced. my client has lodged a complaint with the jurisdictional Police Station regarding the same.

(a) Sale Deed dated 06.03.1998 registered as document No. 8655/1997-98 in the office of the Sub Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, executed by Mr.G.M. Mariswamy and others in favour of Mr.G.V. Sathish Reddy in respect of land bearing Survey No. 232/2 measuring 02 Acres situated at Gunjur Village.

(b) Sale Deed dated 16.07.1984 registered as Document No. 2486/1984-85 in the office of the Sub Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, executed by Shri. G.P. Munireddy & Others in favour of Smt. G.V. Saroja in respect of land bearing Survey No. 233/2 measuring 01 Acre 37 Guntas situated at Gunjur Village.

The above said lands have been sold by my client in favour of Mysore Projects Private Limited. Any person/s in possession of the above mentioned original documents are hereby notified to return the same to the undersigned. Members of the public are also cautioned not to deal with any person on the basis of custody of the above mentioned documents and any such transactions shall not be binding on my client and Mysore Projects Private Limited.

Sd/- **RAVI KUMAR. K.V**
Advocate Office at No.583, 9th Main, Off CMH Road, Indiranagar 1st Stage, Bangalore-560038. Date : 05.09.2020, Place : Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client has negotiated to purchase the immovable property described in the Schedule hereunder from its owner **Mr.N.Prakash,** Son of Mr.N.Venkataraju, residing at No.32, 3rd Main Road, BHCS Layout, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore : 560 076.

Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien and interest in respect of the Schedule property may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned with documentary evidence in support thereof within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the claims of all such person/s shall be deemed to have been waived or abandoned and my client will proceed with the conveyance as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of land being a vacant residential site bearing **No.1279/B,** (formed by the Bangalore Development Authority in Survey No.59 of Hennur Village), situated at **1st Stage, 5th Block, Hennur Bellary Road Layout, (H.B.R.Layout),** Bangalore and now coming within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore and bounded on the :

EAST BY : Site bearing No.1279/A;
WEST BY : Site bearing No.1279/C;
NORTH BY : Site bearing No.1275;
SOUTH BY : 12.00 meters wide Road;
and measuring :
EAST to WEST : 12.19 Meters;
NORTH to SOUTH : 18.29 Meters;
Totally measuring in all 222.95 Square meters or 2400 Square feet;

NISSAR AHMED, Advocate
No.10, Millers Road, Benson Town, Bangalore : 560 046.
Dated : 06.09.2020 Place : Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that the General Power of Attorney executed by my clients Sri. Mahadeva S/o Late Muninanjappa, aged about 48 years, Smt. Nagamma W/o Late Gangadhara, aged about 50 years, Sri. Ajay Kumar G. S/o Late Gangadhara, aged about 25 years, and Smt. Manjula D/o Late Muninanjappa, aged about 45 years in favor of SRI. ARUNA KALYANI. M, S/o. Late Muniyappa. Aged about 50 years, R/at. Sampigehalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064 and also R/at No- 66, 2nd Cross, Venkateshapura, Jakkur Post, Near Anjinaya Temple,Bangalore -560064., and the same being registered on Dated: 20/03/2017 (Document dated 20/03/2015) duly registered in Book IV, as document No.GNR-4-00431/2016-17, Stored in GNRD128, on the file of Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar (Ganganagar), Bangalore, and my client had issued the legal notice dated 28/08/2020 for cancellation of GPA in respect of schedule property. In respect of the schedule property is concerned is hereby revoked and cancelled by my client through this public notice vide Newspaper publication. Therefore, anybody dealing with the said SRI. ARUNA KALYANI. M, S/o. Late Muniyappa,, regarding any of the immovable property belonging to my client and mentioned in the schedule below shall do so at their own risk. My client shall not be responsible for the same in any way whatso-ever.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Sy No 3 measuring 8 acres 23 guntas, situated at Sampigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District bounded as follows:-

East by : Sy No 2/2 Property, **West by** : Sy No 6/7 & Sy No.5 Property, **North by** : Sy No. 4/2 and 4/3, **South by:** Road

A.V. NARASIMHA REDDY
ADVOCATE, No-464, 20th Main, 26th Cross, Judicial Layout, GKVK Post, Yelahanaka New Town, Bangalore -560065.
Ph:9980920221/ 9480333221.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client's **Sri Kumaraswamy A.R,** S/o Late. Dr. A Ramaiah Setty, aged about 40 years and Sri **Sandeep A.R,** S/o Late. Dr. A Ramaiah Setty, aged 34 Years, both are Residing at No 380, 12th Main Road, Srinivasanagar, B.S.K 1st Stage, Bangalore -50 intends to purchase the Property described in the schedule hereunder from Sri M. Raghotham S/o K. Madhava Murhty and Smt Lalitha Murhty W/o K Madhava Murhty who represents that they are the absolute owner in possession of the said property mentioned in the schedule hereunder:

Any person/s having any valid, tenable, legal objections/ claims/ right, title and interest in on upon the said schedule property to the said sale conveyance of the schedule property is/ are hereby noticed to lodge their claim in writing, with documentary proof thereof, within a period of 15 days from the date of this publication to the undersigned, failing which the sale shall be proceeded with as though none have any manner of right, title or interest, nor any legal claim/ objections in respect of the said schedule property described below.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel, enjoyment of the immovable residential property bearing New No. 2, old No 22(16/3), Katha No. 16/3, situated at 2nd Cross Road, Hosakerehalli, Banashankari Third Stage, UttarahalliHobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently coming under the revenue and administrative jurisdiction of B B M P, Ward No 55, Assigned **PID No. 55-266-2,** Measuring East to West : 30 feet and North to South :40 feet, In all measuring :1200 Sq feet. And Bounded on: - **EAST BY :** Property No 21, **WEST BY :** Property No 23, **NORTH BY :** Property No 12, **SOUTH BY :** Road,

The Schedule Property comprises of 29 squares duplex house spread out in Ground, First and Second Floor having RCC roof, constructed with cement and brick, ceramic flooring. Mixed wood use for doors and windows with civic amenities like water, sanitary and electricity facilities.

DAYANAND HIREMATH.
M/s Noble Law associetes. Advocates, Office at No. 76,Rangarao, Near Brahmin's Coffee Bar, Next to Keshavakrupa, Shankarapuram, Bangalore -560004. Ph: 9980009441.

Canara Bank केनरा बैंक
Whitefield-Bangalore SME Branch, #61, A Hope Farm Whitefiled Bangalore Karnataka 560066
E-mail: cb10463@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Ref: 39940 Date: 01-09-2020

Sub: Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
At your request, Bank has extended credit facilities to the below mentioned individuals against secured assets through its **Canara Bank (Erstwhile Syndicate Bank) Whitefield-Bangalore SME Branch,** The relevant particulars of the property on which you have created security interest by execution of security agreement/documents & creation of mortgage by way deposit of title deeds are furnished hereunder. As the operation and conduct of the financial assistance/ credit facilities have become irregular, the debts have been classified as Non Performing Assets in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by the borrowers in repayment of the principal debt and interest thereon. As the demand notice sent by register AD calling upon you, was un-served/not acknowledged, this publication is now issued.

Name of the Borrower: 1) Sunder J. No33,Satyanarayana Temple Street, Cross Road, Guptha Layout, Halsur, Bangalore - 560008

Outstanding Loan Amount : Rs.2,93,931.99/- (Rupees Two Lakh Ninety three Thousand nine hundred thirty one and Paisa ninety nine only) is due along with interest from **01.03. 2020** and costs etc.

Details of security assets: All the piece and parcel of property bearing Residential Site.No.30 Assessment No.119/2,BBMP Khata Nos.119/2/30 situated at Varthuru Village,Varthuru Hobli,Bangalore East Taluk, Presently comes under BBMP Limits and measuring East to West:40-0 feet, North to South:30-0 feet, Total area:1200 sq ft owned by Sunder J and Bounded : on the North by Site No.31 On the South by Site No.29 On the East by Site No.35 On the West by Road

Date of NPA : 29.02.2020 **Demand Notice Date: 01-09-2020**
Nature of limit: A/c No. 04637740000365 **Limit Amount :4,90,000**

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Banks rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law.

Date: 05.09.2020 sd/- Authorised officer
Place: Bangalore Canara Bank

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- **Stream SA**: Students enrolled in XI Standard (Science Subjects) during the academic year 2020-21 and aspiring to join an undergraduate program in basic sciences (B.Sc /B.S./B.Stat./B.Math. / Int. M.Sc./ Int. M.S.) during the academic year 2022-23.
- **Stream SX**: Students enrolled in +2 / XII standard (Science Subjects) during the academic year 2020-21 and aspiring to join an undergraduate program in basic sciences (B.Sc./ B.S./ B.Stat./ B.Math./ Int. M.Sc./ Int.M.S.) during the academic year 2021-22.
- **Stream SB**: Students enrolled in First Year B.Sc. / B.S. / B. Stat. /B. Math./ Int. M.Sc./Int. M.S. in basic sciences during the academic year 2020-21.

1	Start of online submission of Application	6th September 2020
2	Last date for closing of online Application	5th October 2020
3	KVPY Aptitude Test	31st January 2021

For more detail please visit: http:// www.kvpy.iisc.ernet.in
Convener, KVPY, IISc, Bengaluru-560 012

PUBLIC NOTICE
(SALE and LOSS OF ORIGINAL TITLE DEEDS)

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL that our client(s) intend(s) to purchase the below-mentioned Schedule Property from **Sri. Praveen K. Oswal S/o. Late Sri. Kantilal B. Oswal,** who claims to be the absolute owner of the same. Any person(s) / institution(s) objecting to the proposed sale or asserting any manner of lawful right, title, interest or share over the Schedule Property or part thereof is/are required to lodge their objections/claims alongwith photo-copies of documents based on which they object to the said sale or stake their claim, only by registered post with acknowledgement due, so as to reach at the below-mentioned address within 15 (fifteen) working days from the date of this publication, failing which our client(s) shall proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claims of any nature thereon, and all claims even if existing, shall be deemed to have been waived off / abandoned.

Any objections/claims received after the said period or personal representations or communication by any other mode shall not be entertained / considered under any circumstances.

Sri. Praveen K. Oswal has represented to our client(s) that he had acquired the Schedule Property from his mother **Smt. Nirmala Kantilal Oswal** under a **Registered Gift Deed** dated **25-05-2016** which was registered as **Document No.BSG-1-01103-2016-17** of **Book-I** and stored in **CD No.BSGD293** in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore, which was subsequently lost / misplaced; pursuant to which he had lodged a complaint with the Crime branch of the Bangalore City Police under **Lost Article Report No.001393 / 2018 dated 03-01-2018** and got published a Paper Notification in **Deccan Herald** and **Praja Vani** newspapers, both dated **03-02-2018.**

The said **Sri. Praveen K. Oswal** has further represented to our client(s) that his mother too has lost/ misplaced the Original **Registered Sale Deed** dated **07-07-1989,** registered on **15-07-1989** as **Document No.1118/89-90** in **Volume No.1588** of **Book-I** at **Pages 198 to 205** in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore, under which she had purchased the Schedule Property from **Sri. K. Rajagopal;** pursuant to which she had lodged a complaint with the **Chickpet Police Station** on **14-11-2002** and thereafter got placed a Paper Notification in **The Hindu** newspaper dated **23-11-2002.** He has represented that both the said original title deeds remain untraced as on the date of publication of this Public Notice.

Any person who is in possession / or finds the said original title deeds is required to intimate by registered post to the below-mentioned address immediately without fail. Finders shall be suitably rewarded for their efforts.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the property bearing Municipal No.44 (formerly No.49/44), PID No.50-35-44, New PID No.143-W0069-50 situated at Jain Temple Road, Visveswarapuram, Bangalore-560 004, alongwith the building thereon, in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.50 (V.V. Puram Ward), measuring:

EAST to WEST : On the NORTHERN side : 57 feet 2.50 inches
On the SOUTHERN side : 50 feet 6 inches
NORTH to SOUTH : On the EASTERN side : 20 feet 2.50 inches
On the WESTERN side : 23 feet 6 inches

Totally measuring about **1177 sq. feet** and bounded on the:
EAST by : Road and property belonging to Sri. Mohammed Khan Sab;
WEST by : Road;
NORTH by : Property belonging to Sri. Dhobi Muniyappa;
SOUTH by : Property belonging to Sri. Ponnuswamy.

ABHAY KUMAR P. JAIN & V. RAMKUMAR, Advocates
LexJuris, No.202, PANCHARATHNA RACE VIEW APARTMENTS
No.15/1, 6th Cross, Gandhinagar, BANGALORE- 560 009.

SMARTADS

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TRACKING COVID-19

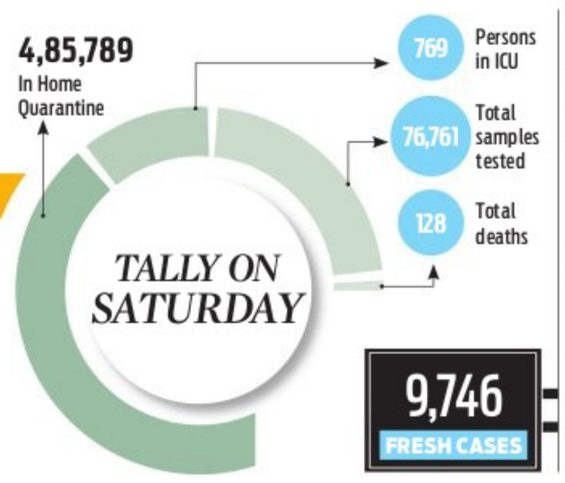
CM Yediyurappa announced on Saturday that India's biggest Covid Care Centre at Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre will be shut down due to lack of admissions.

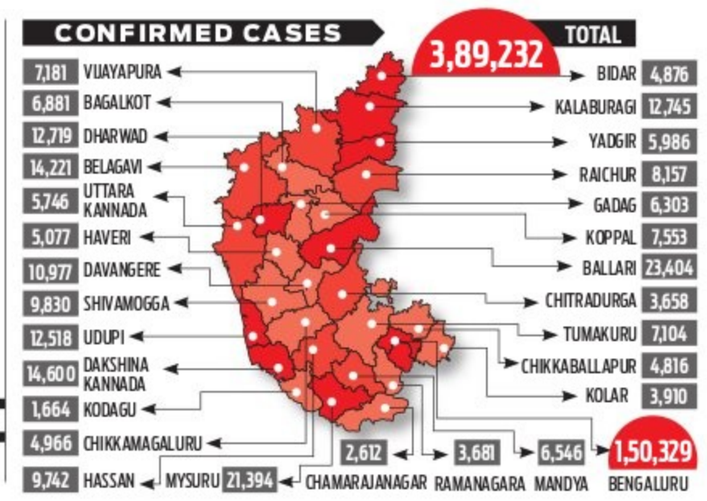
9,102 NEW RECOVERIES

2,83,298 TOTAL RECOVERED

HELPLINES
080-46848600
080-66692000

104 Arogya Sahayavani will function too





RISKY BUSINESS

Self-medicating elderly facing side-effects: Docs

Seniors resorting to polypharmacy, falling prey to false advice from different sources; such drugs have long-term effect: Experts

Customers maintain social distance outside a chemist shop | EXPRESS

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

AS Covid continues to rage, many senior citizens have started consuming more than five tablets in a row, which is termed "polypharmacy", without consulting physicians, to avoid contracting the disease or to reduce their pre-existing conditions. But in many instances, it has only led worsening of their condition.

Health professionals said that Covid has led to fear and anxiety among people and many are living in denial, refusing to accept their clinical diagnosis, but resorting self-diagnosis and medication. The elderly are getting carried away by WhatsApp forwards, pharmacy advertising and free advise coming from their children. As a consequence, they are not taking required medicines, but are consuming a large amounts of unwanted medications, which can do more harm than good.

A 60-year-old patient had loose stools, fever and myalgia. Instead of consulting a medical expert, he started taking medicines himself. His condition only worsened and when he was diagnosed later, he was found to be Covid-positive, requiring immediate treatment.

Dr Bindumathi P L, Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine, Aster CMI Hospital, said, "Whenever someone falls sick, they immediately Google their symptoms to search for treatment and medications. But self-diagnosis is not always accurate and though it can partially mask a condition for some time, it can have a detrimental impact in the long term."

> Self-diagnosis is not always accurate and though it can partially mask a condition for some time, it can have a detrimental impact in the long term
>
> Dr Bindumathi P L, Aster CMI Hospital

Dr Ravindra M Mehta, Senior Consultant; HoD, Pulmonology, Interventional pulmonology, Apollo Speciality Hospitals, Jayanagar, said, "The elderly are used to taking a large number of medicines, because of high incidence of co-morbidities, such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and other issues. Because of the fear of Covid-19, there has been a tendency to take more over-the-counter immunity-boosting agents, like vitamin C and zinc. This has been going on for long because of the nature of the pandemic. But it comes with its own side-effects and prolonged use can lead to intolerance such as gastro-intestinal issues. Also, the elderly have not been able to visit their doctors to adjust and reduce medications."

Dr Sheela Chakravarthy, Director, Internal Medicine; Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, said "Polypharmacy has made patients ignore indicated medicines and consume large amounts of unwanted drugs. For instance, skipping anti-hypertensive medications for some vitamin supplements could cause more harm than good."

Spike in cases sign of 2nd wave, say experts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

ON Friday midnight, the state recorded 9,746 new cases, with the cumulative tally standing at 3,89,232. With the state recording an exponential increase at over 9,000 cases a day since a few days, the health professionals state that this can be a sign that the second wave of the pandemic has begun.

On the brighter side, Bengaluru hit the 1 lakh mark with respect to discharges.

Dr Satyanarayana Mysore, HOD of Pulmonology at Manipal Hospitals, said, "The exponential growth of the cases indicates that the second wave has begun. Karnataka which was hoping to reach its peak, wherein about 40% of the population will be infected and the cases would reduce, is now instead seeing a growth in cases. The second wave, however, has both a negative and positive side. On a positive note, with the beginning of the second wave, the duration of the pandemic in the state can get over early. But on the negative side, the second wave has the potential to overwhelm the critical care of the hospital resources."

A health worker outside a free Covid testing centre in Bengaluru on | SHRIRAM BN

> From one testing lab for Covid-19 test, we have opened 108 labs in six months and from 300 tests per day to 75,000. This will soon reach the goal of 1 lakh tests per day
>
> Dr K Sudhakar, Medical Education Minister

The health professionals have attributed the rise in cases to people not following the Covid norms like wearing masks. In addition, social gatherings have begun, throwing social distancing to the winds, they said.

The state recorded 128 Covid deaths. In Bengaluru Urban, 3,093 new cases and 34 deaths were reported. There were the highest single day discharges in the State at 9,102.

Meanwhile, Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar said the state will soon reach its goal of conducting 1 lakh Covid-19 tests per day as it has increased the number of labs and the tests done. . "From one testing lab for Covid-19 test, we have opened 108 labs in six months and from 300 tests per day to 75,000. This will soon reach the goal of 1 lakh tests per day. Covid-19 can be prevented completely only with the use of the vaccine. The death rate in the state has been 1.65% and the aim is to bring it down to less than 1%," he said.

Lack of ventilator at govt hospital killed ex-MLA Gowda: JDS leader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Shivamogga

FORMER MLA **M J Appaji Gowda** failed to get a ventilator, either at a private hospital or at the government-run McGann Hospital. If this is the situation for a political leader and a former MLA, what would be the condition of the common man, wondered former MLA and JD(S) leader Y S V Datta.

Talking to the media on Saturday, Datta alleged that Appaji died because of unavailability of ventilator on time. "The issue is being debated across the state. The district administration has to take responsibility for it," he said.

The state government has been making tall claims of facilities made to combat the Covid situation, including the availability of beds at private and government hospitals and infrastructure like ventilators. But the situation on the ground is different, he alleged.

"Whether Appaji died of Covid or not is a different issue. In any case, should a Covid-positive patient get admitted to a private hospital or not," he asked.

He demanded that the district administration direct private hospitals in the city to reserve beds for Covid patients, like it has been done in Bengaluru.

The government has failed to manage the Covid-19 pandemic in the state and has not been able to provide ventilators and other facilities to Covid patients at designated hospitals and Covid Care Centres, he said.

McGann superintendent denies Datta's charges

Medical Superintendent of McGann Hospital Dr S Sridhar denied charges that ventilators were not available at the hospital. He said that he was in constant touch with zilla panchayat member Mani Shekhar, who accompanied former MLA Appaji Gowda, from the time they left Bhadravathi. Every medical facility was arranged before they brought the patient to McGann Hospital, he said, and clarified that he personally supervised the situation when Appaji was brought in to the hospital and all efforts were made to save him.

Ramaiah launches post-Covid care centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Covid effect does not stop once one is cured. As a number of cured patients have been facing issues like breathlessness, fever, fatigue and tiredness even after getting themselves rid of the virus, healthcare experts are seeing an increasing need for post-Covid care for such individuals.

Dr S Sacchidanand, Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, said that coronavirus is an enigma and each day it throws up new challenges for the medical community. "Although there is a high recovery rate, the long-term effects of this disease are still not known. Patients recovering from Covid have complained of fatigue, breathing issues, paediatric issues, neurological issues, mental health issues and more. Earlier it was thought that coronavirus only affected the lungs and caused respiratory problems, but today we know that it affects nearly every organ. A post-Covid care centre will help in looking after such patients," he said.

In a first in the state, Ramaiah Memorial Hospital inaugurated a Post-Covid Care and Rehabilitation Centre on Friday.

Dr Harish K, Associate Dean, Ramaiah Medical College Hospital, and Vice Principal, Ramaiah Medical College, said, "Any number of patients can be admitted at our centre, which has a dedicated team of neurologists, physicians and other experts."

He said, "So far, Ramaiah Hospital has seen over 2,000 patients being admitted and discharged. We have a database and we are calling the discharged patients. We ask those who have any health issues post-recovery to come to this centre. Other hospitals too will inform their patients, who can reach out to us."

Bommanahalli helpline for round-the-clock testing

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

IN a first, Bommanahalli zone has started "emergency testing" by setting up a helpline number, which can be contacted by people at any hour. A dedicated testing team is sent to their home immediately and a patient is tested through the rapid antigen test, which gives results instantly. The initiative is to track cases fast and send patients to hospitals before it is too late, officials said.

The zone was initially holding testing camps in residential areas and then moved them to industry clusters. But then, there were cases of symptomatic people needing Covid test reports to get themselves admitted to hospitals. That was when the helpline, 8884666670, was started. It has till now received 9,800 calls.

A resident of Kanakapura was impressed with the helpline and the response time of Covid care workers. When he showed the symptoms, the family reached out to the helpline and a team came to their house and tested the patient at 11 pm.

A volunteer at the Bommanahalli zone war room said, "When we first started working in the zone, we realised that there were lot of apprehensions and questions from the people. We also wanted to open a channel of communication where anyone could reach out to us round the clock. That's why the helpline was started. We have got an overwhelming response and now we are conducting a campaign to spread awareness on the helpline. We have actively addressed 95% of the issues raised. We have agents who will attend to all types of calls, from sanitisation to shifting to testing."

The team also found that people had been concerned about shifting women patients in an ambulance after 8 pm. To address the issue, an ambulance with a tracking link was commissioned and escorts too were arranged for single women being shifted at night. "Our women volunteers accompany such single women to make them feel safe," the volunteer said.

CORONA METER

ACTIVE CASES 99,617

RECOVERY RATE 72.78%

Bagalkot tackles fatality rate, brings it under 1%

MAHESH M GOUDAR
@Bagalkot

BAGALKOT district, which had one of the worst fatality rates in the state in July at 4.2 per cent, has now changed the scenario by recording a death rate of less than 1 per cent. The efforts of the district health authorities have paid off, and the numbers have come down considerably.

The district reported two Covid deaths and 144 positive cases on Saturday, taking the tally to 6,881 positives, 1,007 active cases and 5,794 recoveries. Over 50 per cent of the positive cases are from villages in the district. The rural areas in Badami, Mudhol and Hungund are the worst-affected.

The fatality rate in Bagalkot has come down from 4.2% to less than 1% | EXPRESS

Speaking to TNIE, District Health Officer Dr Ananth Desai said that bringing down the fatality rate in rural areas was the biggest challenge. "In June and July, cases were at their peak in rural areas, as most patients were migrants returning to their hometowns from Maharashtra and Goa. People were afraid to get tested and would come to the hospital only after failing to recover from taking self-prescribed medicines. As we received critical Covid patients late, it was difficult to save their lives. This was one of the main reasons for the high fatality rate in the initial days."

However, health officers succeeded in convincing the villagers to get tested early. "By creating awareness and educating them about the virus, we could persuade them to get tested. This helped us detect cases early and provide timely treatment," Dr Desai added.

According to the war room report, fatalities in the district were being reported at a rate of 0.6 per cent for the past one week. Meanwhile, Haveri has the worst fatality rate at 3.6 per cent.

Meanwhile, Bagalkot is among the top five districts to have the highest recovery rate in the state.

FEAR FACTOR

Kumara Krupa readies to welcome tourists under Covid shadow

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

ONE of the most sought after hotels in the heart of the city — the Kumara Krupa Guest House — will soon throw its doors open for tourists again. But the fear of Covid-19 looms large and the management is worried.

Kumara Krupa Guest House, on Kumara Krupa Road, which was opened for tourists last year at affordable rates, was taken over by the government when the novel coronavirus struck. The government converted part of it into a Covid Care Centre (CCC). It is another matter that no patient has ever stayed at the centre. In other words, all the CCC rooms have remained empty.

Of the 180 rooms in the seven-floor building located behind the heritage building, 100 were kept aside for CCC and the remaining were used to house legislators and officials. During this time, even officials were reluctant to stay there. The management of the guest house is rather worried after assessing the ground reality and learning that most hotels are nearly dry with no tourists.

"Of the remaining 80 rooms, we opened only 30% as an additional security measure. Some officials were housed, but they were also apprehensive. Even though all protocols were followed, they were scared. Now we are worried that there will be fear even when the property is completely opened for tourists again," an official said.

Karnataka State Tourism and Development Corporation's (KSTDC) takes care of Kumara Krupa Guest House and others including Bagamanagadala Guest House in Madikeri and hotels in Chitradurga and Yegachi in Belur.

While the properties in Bagamanadala and Belur have been handed back to the KSTDC, the Madikeri and Chitradurga hotels are still being used to house medical staffers and officials in quarantine.

"Citizens need not fear as all properties are well sanitised. It is not at the hotels where people will contract the virus, the risk is more during the journey. All rooms are well sanitised, all the items of bed linen are hygienically cleaned," KSTDC Managing Director Kumar Pushkar told *TNSE*.

He said that they were waiting for government orders to take back the rooms and hotels which were converted into CCCs. The department will take at least one month before opening them back for people, especially in the case of Kumara Krupa Guest House, where many VIPs visit and special attention needs to be paid, he added.

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation will resume bus services to Goa from September 7 onwards. Buses will run from Bengaluru, Mysuru and other places in Karnataka based on demand. Passengers can book tickets online at www.ksrtc.in or through KSRTC/franchisee advance reservation counters.

Cong slams govt for withdrawing cases against BJP leaders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE State Government's decision to withdraw cases against several people, including politicians, is all set to snowball into a major controversy as the opposition Congress is preparing to take the government to task in the assembly session starting September 21. The party is also exploring all options, including legal, to force the government to reconsider its decision, while the latter has defended its move.

The government took a decision to withdraw 62 cases against elected representatives based on the cabinet sub-committee's recommendation on July 22. Among others cases were those related to ministers Anand Singh, B C Patil, Chief Minister's political secretary MP Renukacharya and MLA Nehru Olekar.

"It is very unfortunate that the government is withdrawing criminal cases against BJP leaders. The Congress party will fight against it, within and outside the Assembly," said Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee Working President Saleem Ahmed.

Giving clear indications that the Congress is preparing to put the government on the mat during the session, Opposition leader Siddaramaiah on Saturday wrote to the Home Minister seeking details about all cases that are being withdrawn.

Meanwhile, the government has defended its move. S Suresh Kumar, Education Minister and member of the cabinet sub-committee, said only cases related to protests in public interest are being withdrawn.

The cabinet sub-committee examined the cases booked against farmers, students, anganwadi workers and others and then took the decision in consultation with the Home Department, he said and added that the Congress too had done it when it was in power in the state.

It is very unfortunate that the government is withdrawing criminal cases against the BJP leaders. The Congress party will fight against it, within and outside the Assembly

Saleem Ahmed, KPCC working president

Asked about the cases against politicians being withdrawn, the minister said unlike the Congress, they are not withdrawing cases booked against members of organizations like the Popular Front of India (PFI) and causing any danger to the state.

"Cases related to those who took part in political movements can be reconsidered. We are also withdrawing cases against farmers even though they had violated the rules (during protests). It all depends on the cases. It was done only after examining them case by case," the minister added.

Drug racket: Govt to revisit 8-yr-old report

Ex-BJP MLA Yogish Bhat conducted study in 2012 after teachers complained of substance abuse among students

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

EIGHT years after it was tabled in the Assembly, the State Government will now re-examine the report presented by the Legislative Assembly Petitions Committee on tackling the drug menace. The committee had made 18 recommendations focusing on the drug menace in educational institutions and students falling prey to it. It also touched upon the nexus between the drug mafia and prostitution racket.

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said he has directed Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Rajneesh Goel to look into the report. "It will be thoroughly examined and measures that can be implemented will be discussed. We will continue the crackdown on contraband drugs", he said.

In 2012, former Deputy Speaker and former BJP MLA Yogish Bhat, who headed the committee, took suo motu action and conducted a study on the drug menace. "Drugs are not related to one issue, it is inter-connected with many anti-social activities. Many young people are falling prey to it and the number of cases are increasing every year. Money from the drug trade is being used to fund terrorism," Bhat said. They took up the issue after some college teachers brought to their attention the behavioural changes in their students, he added.

A senior Congress leader pointed out that there were three CMs in the eight years but none of the governments showed any interest in examining the report. "We will take up this issue in the upcoming assembly session," the Congress MLA said.

The committee had suggested sensitising IT& BT firm employees who work under stress. "Companies should conduct awareness programmes that will help them overcome stress," the report said.

IT sector veteran T V Mohandas Pai told *The New Sunday Express* that many big companies are now creating awareness among their employees. "If any employee is found taking drugs, action should be taken," he said.

Former IT&BT Minister Priyank Kharge said, "In the last eight years, many things have changed. We need to look into tech crimes too. The government should constitute a new committee and should include experts from medical, legal, police backgrounds and also policy-makers. Even 16-year-olds have become victim. We need to focus on all these issues.

SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- State govt should set up de-addiction centres for the rehabilitation of drug addicts
- For punishment, quantity of drugs available with a vendor should be reduced to 10 gm from the existing 250 gm
- To dispose of such cases, separate magistrate courts should be set up
- Eminent public persecutors should argue before courts

My daughter is innocent, says Ragini's mother

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"SHE has confessed that she was in contact with Ravishankar and Rahul Shetty and that they had attended several parties, but she has denied any drug link," said the source.

Ragini's mother Rohini told reporters on Saturday that her daughter is innocent and has been "fixed" in the drugs case. "She will come out clean. I believe in justice," said Rohini.

GIVE DATA ON DRUG CASES OF LAST TEN YEARS: SIDDU

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

LEADER of the Opposition Siddaramaiah on Friday sought data related to cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in the last ten years from Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

In a letter to Bommai, he also sought the status of these cases and details of people who were punished. He alleged that as the drug menace is rampant, police involvement cannot be ruled out. "Police officers seem to be hand-in-glove with those involved," he added.

He sought district and taluk-wise data on drugs-related cases from committees that were set up for the purpose, as per NDPS. He asked Bommai to provide details of people who died due to drugs and de-addiction centres in Karnataka. He told the minister to take details from parents whose children are addicted to drugs.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public that my client has entered in to an Agreement for purchase of the vacant residential site No. 275 in 4th B Block, F.E of Banashankari 6th stage Bengaluru, with all the easement rights over /or in respect of the said site. The said site bears BDA Khata Certificate Sl. No Kam.A./275/BSK VI/IV.B/12-13 dated 11.01.2013, with all appurtenances & easement rights etc. The site is measuring East to west: 24 meters, North to South : 15 Meters in all 360 Sq. Meters and bounded on East by: Road, West by : Site No.272& 273, North by: Site No.274, South by: Site No. 276. with all appurtenances from its owner Smt. Kalpana Kanth alias Kalpana MadiSetty Kanth through her brother & power of Attorney Sri. K. T. Balaraju S/o late Sri Thopaiah who has assured that the said property is free from encumbrances, charges, claims, attachments, lease, lien, mortgage including by deposit of title deeds and also free from any acquisitions or requisitions and that the owner has got good unimpeachable marketable right, title & interest over the said site. Any person or authority claiming any right, title, claim or charge of whatsoever nature in/on the said site, shall send their objections in writing with the supporting documents and proof to the undersigned at the under mentioned address within 15 days from the date of the publication of this notice, failing which my client shall proceed with the purchase of the said site. In the absence of any objections received within the period as above, shall be deemed that there are no objections or claims whatsoever nature from anybody or any authority for purchase and my client will proceed to complete the purchase transaction. Any claims or objections received after the 15 days will not be taken in to consideration.

Sd/- **P. Narayana Bhat,** Advocate, 843, 23rd Main, 20th cross, Ideal Homes, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore -560 098, Tel: 9900489938.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, SRINIVASAPURA

Phone: 7338629891

No: APMC/SRI/533/2020-21 Dated: 24.08.2020

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Competitive E-Tenders are invited as per KW-4 in E-Tender Website:**http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by class 1 PWD Civil Contractor for the work Construction of Cement concrete road and Drain in main market yard under 2014-15 WIF Scheme. Amount put to Tender Rs. 4,24,40,000/-. E.M.D. Rs. 6,37,000/-. Period of completion 06 Months. (1) Pre bid meeting on **25.09.2020, 11.00 a.m.** (2) Last date of receipt of tenders : **01.10.2020 up to 5.00 p.m.** Terms and Conditions and other information contact A.P.M.C., Office or from the above Website.

Sd/- (M. Venugopal) Secretary(I/C) **Sd/- (S.C. Ramesh) Chairman**

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಕೋಲಾರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ217/ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2020–21

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public who are having any interest or authority is informed by this public notice that, my client intends to purchase the under mentioned schedule property from Mrs. Rukmini V, W/o. G N Ramakrishna, aged about 51 years, R/at: No.5, Old No.40, 2nd Main Road, 15th Cross, Maruthi Badavane, Bangalore - 560 003.

Any person having any claim, right or interest on the schedule property more fully described below may lodge written objections to the under signed Advocate along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of this publication, if no objection in what so ever nature is received, my client presume that there is no claim from anybody and my client shall proceed with completion of the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No.5, Old No.40, 2nd Main Road, 15th Cross, Maruti Badavane, Vinayaka Circle, Bangalore- 560003 having PID No. 5-72-5, measuring East to West 45 feet and North to South 15 feet, totally measuring 675 feet, built up area 1700 sqft with two floors and terrace and bounded on the:

East by : Road
West by : Anjaneya Temple
North by : property of Jayalakshmamma,
South by : property of Lakshman rao.
Measuring : East to West: 45 feet, North to South: 15 feet having a total area of 675 sq.ft.

TEJAS N., Advocate
TAS Law Associates
No.17/1, 1st Floor, 3rd Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-03.

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti - 584 115, Dist: Raichur, State: Karnataka , Ph: 08537-275463 / 276339 Fax: 08537-275048, 275054 e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com
Website: www.huttigold.co.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 06/2020-21 Date: 06.09.2020

(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders are invited by "The Dy. General Manager (Materials)" for the procurement of following goods from reputed manufacturers/authorized dealers, as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description	Qty.	Approx. Value (Rs.in lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Supply of Diesel Emission Monitor Kit **HGML/2020-21/INDENT2793**	01 No.	11.27	28,500/-
2	Supply of Multi Gas Detectors. **HGML/2020-21/INDENT2795**	02 Nos.	4.84	12,500/-
3	Supply of Rubber lining and installation to MS CIP Tanks in Leaching process plant. **HGML/2020-21/PM/WORK_INDENT268**	-	25.60	51,000/-

(1) Last date for receipt of tender: **10.10.2020 at 4.00 P.M. (2)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **13.10.2020 at 10.00 A.M.** Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement portal only & tender processing fees as per e-Portal norms. Please visit: **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for submitting the bid. Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Dy.General Manager (Materials)

"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 24-27 and 47-52/2020-21/KWA/PHC/D2/TVM Jaljeevan Mission-Thiruvananthapuram District-Providing Functional house hold tap connection and allied works in Aruvikkara, Kallara, Uzhamalakkal, Vellanad, Kulathoor, Chenkal,Perumakadavila,Kottukal, Venganoor and Poovar Panchayath in Thiruvananthapuram District EMD : Rs. 50000 /Each for tender nos. 24 to 27, 47 to 50 and Rs.1,00,000/Each for tender nos. 51 and 52 Tender fee : Rs. 2500 for tender no.47 and 49, Rs.5000/Each for tender nos 24 to 27,48 and 50, Rs.7500/Each for tender nos 51 and 52 Last Date for submitting Tender : 17-09-2020 03:00:pm Phone : 0471-2322303 Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in (Sd/-) Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-301-2020-21 PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, Bashyam Park, South Central Street, Bengaluru- 560 020

No.EE(GNR)/E-Proc)/004/2020-21 Date: 05.09.2020

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (KW-4)

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, invites tenders on behalf of the BBMP Commissioner from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	EMD (Rs. in lakh)
1	Comprehensive Development of Community Hall, Toilet Blocks and Other Works in Ward No. 94, 95 and 96.	3.60

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal **from : 15.09.2020 onwards. 2)** Pre-Bid Meeting : **22.09.2020 at 16.00 Hrs. 3)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **16:00 Hrs. on : 25.09.2020. 4)** Technical bids will be opened on **28.09.2020 at 12:30 Hrs.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact e-procurement helpdesk at : 080-22441076.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU

Government of Karnataka

Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Electrical Division, Bangalore-560 001

The Executive Engineer PWD Electrical Division, Bangalore invites **Short Term** tender from **The tenderer as a Prime Contractor having valid Class–I Electrical License issued by Electrical inspectorate, Govt. of Karnataka and should have suitable technical, financial & managerial capabilities for Providing Maintenance to C.C.TV of Rajbhavan, Legislative Homes and providing labour charges for C.C.T.V operator (Only LH complex 24/7), at Bengaluru (10 Months) for the year 2020-21 KPWD/2020-21/ EL/ WORK_INDENT 124428/ Call-3** Tender's **Third Call** for Amount **Rs.26.66 Lakhs.** As per KW-2, STD Conditions. The details may be seen and Downloaded at web site: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** Downloading from **dt. 03-09-2020 to 11-09-2020** up to 16:00 Hours. Submitted online in e-Procurement Portal on **11-09-2020 before 16:00 Hours.** Further details contact under signed office at working Hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Ele)
PWD Electrical Division,
Bangalore-01

THE MYSORE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED

ISO 9001 COMPANY

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
P.B. No. 2221, Tumakuru Road, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru - 560 022. Ph: 23376851(6 lines) 23376641 (4 lines) Fax: 23371811
e-Mail: **mei.matls9@gmail.com**
Visit us at **www.meiswitchgears.com**
Ref.No.: MEI/Manager (Matls)/2020-21/114-115 Date: 03.09.2020

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement)

The MEI Requires Supply of Fabricated/Electrical & Raw Materials.

Please visit us at **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For any details and clarifications please contact Phone Nos.: 080-23379506 and 23379507.

Note: Connected Drawings / Technical Details to be collected from Materials Division, M/s. The Mysore Electrical Industries Ltd., Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru-560 022 or by Post /Courier (Send us DD for **Rs.100/-** only towards Postal/Courier Charges).

Sd/- Manager (Materials)

QuoteExpress

ONCE A NEW TECHNOLOGY ROLLS OVER YOU, IF YOU'RE NOT PART OF THE STEAMROLLER, YOU'RE PART OF THE ROAD › STEWART BRAND

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS
The Official Liquidator O/o., Official Liquidator,
Corporate Bhavan, IInd Floor, No. 29, Rajaji Salai, Chennai-600001. Phone No. 044-25271149/51, Fax: 044-25271152, Website: www.olchennai.in, Email : olmadras@gmail.com, ol-chennai-mca.nic.in

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
(ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

In the matter of Maxworth Orchards (India) Limited (in provisional Liquidation)

SALE NOTICE

In pursuance of the orders of the Hon'ble High Court, Madras dated 28.02.2020 in C.A.No.1, 2, 58 and 84 and order dated 16.06.2020 in C.A. No. 138 & 139 of 2020 in C.A. No.1 , 2, 58 and 84 of 2020 in C.P.No.57 of 1998, sealed Tender covers are invited from the intending purchasers by the undersigned for the purchase of the land belonging to M/s. Maxworth Orchards (India) Limited (in provisional Liquidation situated at the places more fully described in the schedule as per **ANNEXURE - 'A'** hereunder, on **"As is where is and whatever there is condition" and no complaint basis.**

DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY FOR SALE

Sl. No.	Name of the Max - Project for sale	Name of the village, land where located	Location Taluk & District	Extent of land available for sale (in acres)	Upset Price in Rs.	EMD (10% of the upset price)	Date and time of inspection
1	Max - Theni	Dombucherry	Bodinayakkanur & Theni	144.1875/-	Guideline value of respective Survey Numbers are given in **Annexure-'A'**	10% of the guide line value	30.09.2020 till 4 pm
2	Max - Theni	Ammapatti	Bodinayakkanur & Theni	20.2325/-			

Duly signed Tender Form with interest free EMD @ 10% on the upset price in the form of a Demand Draft in a sealed cover should be submitted before the **REGISTRAR GENERAL HIGH COURT, MADRAS** on or before 05.10.2020.

EMD amount by way of Demand Draft should be drawn in any Nationalised Bank in favour of the Official Liquidator, High Court, Madras.

Last date of submission of Tenders: 05.10.2020

Date of opening: 06.10.2020 or on such adjourned date in the open Court at 10 a.m.

The inspection expenses shall be borne exclusively by the intending bidders.

For details of properties such as Survey Numbers, Upset price in ANNEXURE-'A', Terms and conditions of sale and other events, intending purchasers may kindly visit this office website www.olchennai.in / www.mca.gov.in or call on this office on any working day.

Inspection Site: Contact G. Murugesan, Mobile Nos. 7299375120.

Dated at Chennai this the 2nd day of September 2020

Sd/- (Dr. K.Thirumalaimuthu)
Official Liquidator, High Court, Madras.

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti - 584 115, Raichur Dist., Karnataka State. Ph: (08537)275740/276339/275463
e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com website: www.huttigold.co.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 13/20-21, Dt. 06.09.2020

(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders are invited by "The Dy.General Manager (Materials)" for the procurement of following goods from reputed manufacturers/authorized dealers, as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description	Qty.	Approx. Value (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD amount (in Rs.)
1	Supply of GI Flanges **HGML/2020-21/INDENT2847**	1,000 Nos.	11.26	28,000/-
2	Supply of open Mines Rescue Equipments **HGML/2020-21/INDENT2843**	4 Nos.	24.82	50,000/-
3	Supply of open Gear Lubricants **HGML/2020-21/INDENT2834**	3628 Kgs.	21.51	43,000/-
4	Supply of Borex. **HGML/2020-21/INDENT2849**	8000 Kgs.	5.20	13,000/-
5	Supply of Ash(light) **HGML/2020-21/INDENT2848**	6500 Kgs.	2.34	6,000/-
6	Supply of Fire Extinguishers **HGML/2020-21/INDENT2842**	As per list	1.04	2,600/-
7	Supply of Raksha Kavacha (Chemical type) **HGML/2020-21/INDENT2843**	30 Nos.	6.33	16,000/-

1. Last date for receipt of tender: 06.10.2020 up to 4.00 P.M.

2. Opening of Technical Bid on: 09.10.2020 at 10.00 A.M.

Tender shall be submitted through e-procurement portal only & tender processing fees as per e-portal norms.

Please visit website: https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in for submitting the bid. Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Dy. General Manager (Materials)

"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

Government of Karnataka

Additional Chief Secretary to Government Finance Department,
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

No.: FD 01 BMB 2020 Date: 03.09.2020

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)

1. Aggregate Amount : Total Rs. 2000 Crore Rs. 1000 Crore (10 Year Tenure) and Rs. 1000 Crore (14 Year Tenure)
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort)
3. Date of auction : September 08, 2020

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**

DIPR/BU/20/MCA/20-21

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice to the general public that my client has lost/misplaced the original BDA Khata dated 06.09.2013 for site no 62 in layout known as "Bluejay Ardley Phase-1" situated at Doddabele Village Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, and in spite of all his best efforts, he has not been able to trace the same. My client has lodged a complaint before the Bangalore City police vide Lost Article Report No.108407/2020 dated 04.09.2020 and it's under Serial No. 856488 recording to this effect.

Any person having information or possession of the aforesaid document is hereby requested to contact our office at the address mentioned below.

Date: 05.09.2020 Place: Bangalore

R. Manjunatha Reddy, Advocate
#39, M.H Towers, Railway Parallel Road, Nehru Nagar, Kumar Park, Bangalore – 20

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Pothapu Keshava Reddy S/o P.Reddeppa Reddy, aged about 36 years, residing at No.49, 2nd Cross, Bazaar street, Behind Tin Factory, and Union Bank of India, Udayanagar, Dooravaninagar (Post), Bangalore-560016,

The Original Documents List as under:

1. Sale Deed in original document bearing No.4374/68-69, dated 05.12.1968 and document bearing No.6665/92-93 of Book-I, Volum-618, dated : 28.12.1992.

2. PAN CARD bearing No.AMUPP6406D

3. Aadhar card bearing No.4313 01649569 issued at Chittore (A.P).

In this regard I had given a police complaint in Mahadevapura Police Station, Bangalore vide Lost Report No.108269/2020, dated 04.09.2020. I am Swearing to this Affidavit to submit the same before the concerned authorities. What is stated above is true and correct to the best to my knowledge, before and information.

POTHAPU KESHAVA REDDY
Place : Bangalore, Date : 04.09.2020.

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INDULGE
Every Friday with
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that, our client **SRI. B. R. NANJUNDESHWARA**, had **lost** the original Sale deed dated 26-06-2013, Document No.2291/2013-14 and Cancellation of Sale deed dated 26-12-2013 document No.8001/2013-14, in respect of property bearing Site No.34, situated at Doddabidarakallu Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, while taking Xerox copy of the same at Xerox shop near Muneshwar Temple, Doddabidarakallu. If anybody found the said document please contact this No.9844155041, 9741215635.

V. S. Rai & Associates,
LAW FIRM. No.23,"Venkatadri" 6th Main, 5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-27.

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly Owned Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)

No. CEE/GLB/SEE (O)/AEE2/AE/2020-21/2209-17 Date: 04-09-2020

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-procurement mode only)

Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited (GESCOM) Kalaburagi O&M Zone invites tenders in Two Tender Document system for following through E-procurement mode:

Providing and Fixing Chain link Fencing around the single pole /Double pole mounted transformer centers with M.S.Angles in O&M City sub-division-I,II,III & IV of O&M City Division, GESCOM, Kalaburagi on Total Turnkey Basis.

The bid documents will be available on web site: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **07-09-2020.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy.), O&M Zone, GESCOM,
Attal Bihari Vajpayee Layout, Jewargi Road, Kalaburagi.

For Electricity Complaints Call 1912 Download URJA MITRA APP

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is hereby given to the public whomsoever that my client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from **Sri. SUVARNA MURTHY. S** S/o Srinivasachar. Sri. SUVARNA MURTHY has told my client the Original Possession Certificate issued by the Karnataka Housing Board, Bangalore pertaining to the Schedule Property is not available with him and is reported to be lost or misplaced by the original owner Smt. Adeline David.

Any person or persons having objections, claims, or interest in the schedule property/ transactions may lodge the same to the undersigned with valid documents/proof **within Seven (07) days** from the date of this publication, failing which it shall be presumed that the aforesaid property is free from any acts of encumbrances or claims.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing No.137 in MIG, BBMP Khatha No.2166/65/137/2152, situated at 1st Main, Kengeri Satellite Town, Kengeri Sub Range, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, MEASURING - East to West :: 72-0 feet, North to South :: 40-0 feet, in all measuring 2,880 Sq. feet AND BOUNDED ON THE FOLLOWING BOUNDARIES–East by : 1st Main Road, West by : House No.147, North by : House No.138 and South by : House No.136. The above property consists of old house with a super built up area of 1050 sq.ft.

B. JANARDHANA,
Advocate,
No.892/C, 1st Floor, 6th Main,
WCR 2nd Stage, Mahalakshmipuram,
BANGALORE-560 086.
MBL No.9845448285.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client viz. Smt.Girija, W/o. Sri. V.M. Raghu, at No.3, 17th Main Road, AGS Layout, Arehalli, Bengaluru-560061, had executed General Power of Attorney on 03/09/2019, registered as Document No.SRJ-4-00153-2019-20, in Book IV, stored in C.D.No.SRJD443, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi (Sarjapur), Bangalore, in favour of M/s.OSR VENTURES LLP, a limited liability partnership firm at No.40 & 41, 3rd Floor, Ventureast Plaza, Road No.2, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana-500 032, with respect to the Schedule Property. My client has revoked the said General Power of Attorney. The public are hereby requested not to deal with M/s.OSR VENTURES LLP as Power of Attorney Holder of my client. Any act of M/s.OSR VENTURES LLP as the Power of Attorney Holder of my client will not bind my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

Land measuring (1) 01 Acre 1 Gunta in Sy.No.42/1 and (2) 00 Acre 39 Guntas in Sy.No.42/2 of Channasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, and presently bearing BBMP Khatha No.602/Sy.No.42/1 & 42/2 of Channasandra Division, Municipal Ward No.160 of R.R Nagar, Bengaluru and bounded by – **East:** Properties in Sy.Nos.42/3 and 42/4; **West :** Property in Sy.No.22; **North:** Property in Sy.No.23; and **South:** Road and Property in Sy.No.22.

H.S. DWARAKANATH,
Advocate, No.24, IV Model House Street, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಸಿಂಗಟಾಲೂರು ಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ–1, ಮುಂಡರಗಿ, ಗದಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. **Ph No: 08371 – 262174**

(1) No.EE/KNNL/SLIS/Div.1/Tender/Rental Vehicle/2020-21/675(Indent No 30169) Date: 02.09.2020 (2) No.EE/KNNL/SLIS/Div.1/Tender/Rental Vehicle/2020-21/676(Indent No 30170) Date: 02.09.2020

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (ONLY THROUGH "*e-Procurement*" SYSTEM)

ಸಿಂಗಟಾಲೂರು ಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ವಿಭಾಗದಡಿ ಬರುವ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ (1) ರನ್ವಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು (Indent No-30169) ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ(2) ರನ್ವಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು (Indent No-30170) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು "***e-Procurement***" **Portal** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮುಂದುವರೆದು ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರು, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **05.09.2020** ರ ನಂತರ "**eproc.karnataka.gov.in**", ಈ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **14.09.2020** ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಅಥವಾ ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಸಿಂ.ಏ.ನೀ.ಯೋ, ವಿಭಾಗ–01, ಮುಂಡರಗಿ

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public in General that, on 17-12-2007, my client **SMT. HEMLATHA SREEVATSAN** W/o. Sri. Sreevatsan, aged about 72 years, R/at No.74, Barry Drive, Westbury, NY - 11590 has terminated / revoked / cancelled the General Power of Attorney dated:17-12-2007 registered vide **document No.JPN-4-00158-2007-08,** Book - 4, stored in CD No.JPND16, registered in the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, J.P.Nagar, Bengaluru, executed in favour of one **SRI. N. RAMACHANDRAIAH** S/o. late. Sri. Nadikerappa, aged about 64 years, R/at MIG, 79/9, 6th Cross, KHB Colony, Basaveshwara - nagar, Bangalore - 560079 AND **Sri. PURUSHOTHAMA** S/o. late Gali Hanumaiah, aged about 56 years, R/at No.28, 1st 'B' Main Road, Shivanagar, Bangalore - 560010 to do all such acts or deeds or things in respect of property bearing **Corporation No.915, situated at 9th Cross Road, II Phase, JP Nagar, Bangalore** (Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Jayanagar Ward No.57), which is more fully described in the Schedule 'A' hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the **'Schedule 'A' Property'** and 50% undivided share, right title and interest in the Schedule 'a' Property with 50% share in the constructed area / super built area in the residential apartments / commercial complex constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property, otherwise described as 'Developer Share' in the Joint Development Agreement, which is morefully described herein and hereinafter referred to as **'Schedule 'B' Property'** by sending International Courier through **FedEx. vide bearing TRK# 3964 8524 6610 & 3964 8729 9752** respectively **on 04-09-2020.**

I hereby inform to the General Public that, in view of revocation / cancellation / termination of registered General Power of Attorney dated:17-12-2007, nobody shall not deal any transaction with the aforesaid Sri. N. Ramachandraiah S/o. late. Sri. Nadikerappa and Sri. Purushothama S/o. late. Gali Hanumaiah Schedule 'A' & 'B' Property, otherwise, their own risk will be caused.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the vacant Site bearing **Corporation No.915,** situated at 9th Cross Road, II Phase, JP Nagar, Bangalore (Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Jayanagar Ward No.57), measuring East to West: 19.70 Mtrs and North to South: 27.10 Mtrs and bounded as follows; **East by** - Site No.916, **West by** - Road, **North by** - Road, **South by** - Site Nos. 914 and 913

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

50% undivided share, right title and interest in the Schedule 'a' Property with 50% share in the constructed area / super built area in the residential apartments / commercial complex constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property, otherwise described as 'Developer Share' in the Joint Development Agreement.

SRI. DHANARAJ. R M.A, LL.B
Advocate, # 9, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross, SVG Nagar, Moodalapalya, B'luru-72. Mob: 7676835065.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all and whomsoever it may concern that my client **Sri V Eshwaraiah S/o late Sri Venkatesh** is the present owner of the schedule property. The said present owner informs that he has lost the original Sale Deed registered as Document No.2081/1997-98 of Book-I, Vol.No.2087 at Pages 113-116, Dated 17.09.1997, registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore and in the said regard, the present owner has lodged a police complaint dated 05.09.2020 vide Lost Report No.108715/2020 with the jurisdictional police station. Now, my client is intending to avail loan from the Banks / Financial institutions by mortgaging the schedule property.

If any other person/s has/have any manner of right, title, interest, demand, claim, charge or lien over the schedule property, they are hereby requested to file their objections to the mortgage of the said property to the Financial Institutions / Banks and shall inform/object the same in writing along with the photocopies of the documents relied for such claim/objections, through the registered post with acknowledgement due to the undersigned **within 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice.

If no valid claim/objection is received by the undersigned as aforesaid, my client shall proceed to avail the loan from the Banks / Financial Institutions by mortgaging the schedule property deeming that no one else has/have any manner of right or claim or interest whatsoever over the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece & parcel of the southern portion of the residential property bearing No.45 (Old No.10/4) (PID No.54-333-45) measuring East to West 60 ft., and North to South 20 ft., totally measuring 1200 sq. ft. situated at 11th A Main Road, Srinivasanagar, Bangalore and bounded on the **East by :** Property No.37; **West by :** Road, **North by :** Northern portion of the remaining property **South by :** Property No.44.

Sd/- RAGHAVENDRA P HOGADE
Advocate, No.186/8, 1st Floor, Sirur Park Road, Behind Nataraj Theatre, Seshadripuram, Bangalore–560020.
Date : 06.09.2020 Bangalore

Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor - Tumakuru Industrial Township Ltd (CBIC-TITL)

CIN: U74999KA2018PLC118247

5th Floor, East Wing, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
Tel.: 080-22267900, Fax : 080-22267901
email: mdcbic24@gmail.com , website: www.kiadb.in

No.:CBICTITL/ENGG/ETND-02/4615/2020-21 Date:04.09.2020

SHORT - TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GoK e-Procurement Portal Only)

CBIC invites tender from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned Providing Consultancy Services for the Programme Management Development of Activation Area Phase-A of Tumakuru Industrial Node under CBIC Scheme, Tumakuru Taluk, Tumakuru District.

The last date and time for receipt of tender is : **19.09.2020 up to 4:00 pm.** Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the e-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer, KIADB

N.E.K.R.T.C. CE DIVISION BALLARI

No.NEKRTC/EE/BLR/DB/390/2020-21 Dated: 05-09-2020

E-PROCRUMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 09/2020-21

Item rate tenders are invited for the works mentioned below as per Karnataka Transparency in Public procurement ordinance of 2000, and Act 2000 in Two Cover System are invited from the Class-I Civil Contractors registered in Karnataka CPWD/MES and KPWD as mentioned below. In E-procurement the contractors will have to upload all informations, documents and rates etc in website only. i.e. **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Bidders/contractors need to register in the e-Procurement portal to submit their bids online and any corrigendum for this notification will be published through E-Procurement portal only.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs)
1.	Construction of Shopping Complex Over two Wheelar Parking area in Bus Station at Hosapete (Under the Deposit Subscription Scheme) {Call – 2}	**Rs. 120.00**	**Rs. 1,80,000-00**

More information E - Procurement Helpline **080-25501216 / 25501227 or 08392-266428 / 9972039797/ 7760992035**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
NEKRTC CE Division, Ballari

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/161/2020–21

QuoteExpress WITHOUT HARD WORK, NOTHING GROWS BUT WEEDS > GORDON B HINCKLEY

Government of Karnataka

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

RDPR Project Division, N.R.Mohalla, Mysuru-570007,
Phone/ Fax: 0821-2492254,
E-mail: eepdmys@gmail.com, kn-mys-1@pmgsy.nic.in

Notification No. EE/RDPR/PD/TECH/TND/2020-21/729 Date: 04.09.2020

TENDER NOTIFICATION (SHORT TERM) -02/2020-21 Dated : 04.09.2020

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, RDPR Project Division, Mysuru invites Item Rate Tenders for improvement of Rural Roads through e-procurement under **Namma Grama Namma Rasthe Yojane** for Estimates Costing **Rs.200.00 lakhs** with EMD 1.50% of Amount put to tender (Double cover system). This scheme is fully funded by the Government of Karnataka. Calendar of Events: Last date for submission of Technical & Financial Bid is **19.09.2020 (16.00 Hours).** Opening of Tender is **21.09.2020 (10.30 Hours).** For any further information, can be had from the O/O Executive Engineer, Project Division, Mysuru, Phone No. 0821-2492254 & also available on **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** website.

Sd/-
Tendering Officer &
Executive Engineer,
RDPR Project Division, Mysuru.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/436/2020–21

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PRABHAKAR K.K,** S/o. Sri K.P. Katakadhond, Residing at No. 392, 33rd Block, Hudco Quarters, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560 034, state that my names, **PRABHAKAR K.K** and **PRABHAKAR KATAKA DUNDA** are the variations of **PRABHAKAR K.K** (Final Name) sworn vide affidavit No. 412 dated 04-09-2020 before Notary Peruvazhuthi, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SEVATHAMMAL, DATE OF BIRTH 18.06.1970,** W/o Devaraj, residing at Qtr No.91/5, Domlur Army Qtr Hal Road, Domlur, Bangalore-560071, have wrongly mentioned my name as CHEVATTHAMMAL and date pf birth as 01.07.1964 **instead of SEVATHAMMAL, DATE OF BIRTH 18.06.1970 (CORRECT NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH)** in my sons service no 14651125N Nk D Senthil, vide affidavit dated 04.09.2020 before Notary public Advocate **A R MUNEER AHMED,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) DEEPA SATWEERAPPA KOLHAR, Residing at No. G-004, Synapse Nest Apartment, ITPL Main Road, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037, Karnataka, have changed my name from **DEEPA SATWEERAPPA KOLHAR** to **DEEPA HOOLI** vide affidavit Dated 27/08/2020 sworn before Notary Adv. N.K.Lakshmana, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DAMODAR B. JETHANI,** S/o. Late Bhagwandas H. Jethani, aged about 60 years, residing at 374, "Sai Kamal", 5th Main, 13th Cross, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru - 560 080, hereby declare that, both the names **DAMODAR B. JETHANI** and **DAMODAR JETHANI** are one and the same person belong to me. I further state that, I will be using **DAMODAR B. JETHANI** as my name in future transactions. Vide affidavit dated 05.09.2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary H.S. Sakalesh Aradhya, Bangalore.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I USHA KIRAN MUDIGERE LAKSHMANGOWDA @ M.L.USHA KIRAN @ USHA KIRAN .M.L. D/o. Late. M.G.Lakshmangowda, has sworn to affidavit before the Notary public K.C.Pemmaiah, on 20/08/2020, at Bengaluru, to clarify that the names Usha kiran Mudigere Lakshmangowda and M.L.Ushakiran and Usha Kiran.M.L, are all my names and are only expanded and abbreviated forms of my name.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **SOSHA ABRAHAM,** aged about 18 years D/o Mr. Shibu Abraham Marett, residing at No.3, Devalaya Veedhi, Gangamma Circle, Jalahalli, Bangalore-560013, have changed my name from **SOSHANNA ABRAHAM MARETT** to **SOSHA ABRAHAM,** vide affidavit dated 01.09.2020, before Advocate & Notary **L.B. ANUSUYAMMA,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHARADADEVI** W/o **Nagendrachari Sharabu,** R/at No.36, 1st Floor, 7th Cross, Bendrenagar, Kadirenahalli, Subramanyapura main Road, BSK 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560070 have changed my name to **SHARADADEVI BHEEMASAMUDRA HIRANYACHARI** vide affidavit dated: 05/09/2020 Before Notary **Gangaraju B.N** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **BIHARILAL B. JETHANI,** S/o. Late Bhagwandas H. Jethani, aged about 58 years, residing at 374, "Sai Kamal", 5th Main, 13th Cross, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru - 560 080, hereby declare that, both the names **BIHARILAL B. JETHANI** and **BIHARILAL JETANI** are one and the same person belong to me. I further state that, I will be using **BIHARILAL B. JETHANI** as my name in future transactions. Vide affidavit dated 05.09.2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary H.S. Sakalesh Aradhya, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **E.K. BHADRINARAYANA,** S/o E.S. Balakrishnan, aged about 66 years, resident of "ANNAPURNA", No. 580, Avenue Road, Bangalore-560002, hereby declare that the both names, i.e., **BHADRINATH, BHADRINAYAN** are one and hereinafter i will be known and called as **E.K. BHADRINARAYANA,** vide affidavit dated 04.09.2020, before Advocate & Notary **N. NAGAPPA,** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **SOUMYA. S,** aged 19 years D/o Sudhakar. M.R, residing at No.19, Thimaki Nilaya, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main Road, Munireddy Palya, Horamavu, Bangalore-560042, have **CONVERTED** from **HINDU** to **CHRISTIANITY ,** vide affidavit dated 05.09.2020, before Notary **G. KASPAR,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KRUPA T** W/o **Harisha H R,** R/at Apt. L 009, Temple Trees Apartment, Jaraganahalli, J P Nagar, 6th Phase, Kanakapura Main Road Bangalore-560078, have Changed my name to **KRUPA HARISH** vide affidavit dated: 05/09/2020 before Notary **H.G.Padmanabha Rao** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **AMRUTHA PRIYA DHARSHINI** D/o. Kiran Kumar, W/o. Somnath Chowdhury, Present Residing at # 304, Ambiant Asset Homes, Mangammanapalya Main Road, HSR Layout, 3rd Sector, Bangalore - 560 068, have changed my name from **AMRUTHAPRIYADHARSHINI K.** D/o. Kiran Kumar to **AMRUTHA PRIYA DHARSHINI** W/o. Somnath Chowdhury. Vide affidavit dated 05.09.2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary Jain Swarnamala, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **VADANA KUMARI ESTHER,** aged about 49 years is the legally wedded Spouse of **636778 'S' Ex-Cpl. DEVAGIRAM .D,** presently residing at No. 26, Anjneyappa Block, 2nd Cross, Krishnamma Garden, Benson Town Post, Bangalore-560046, have changed my name from **VADANA KUMARI ESTHER** to **VADANA KUMARI ESTHER DAVID** vide affidavit dated 03.09.2020, before Notary **L. GOPALA KRISHNA,** Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Poornima T.M** D/o Sri. Malleshaiah T.V., aged about 23 years, residing at : No.28/1, Shantikethan, 4th Cross, 1st Main Road, Manorayanapalya Bengaluru-560032, declare that I have converted my religion from Hinduism to Islam and changed my name from **Poornima T.M** to **AASIYA KHAN,** vide affidavit dated 05.09.2020, duly sworn before Advocate and Notary **PRAKASH. C** at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KAREEM UNISSA** W/o **Jawad Ahmed,** R/at No.32,3rd A Cross, 18 main, BTM Layout, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560076, hereby declare that my names **SYEDA KAREEM UNISSA and KAREEM UNISSA** are one and the Same Names which belongs to me itself only, vide affidavit dated:23/06/2020 before notary **K.C.Gowthami** Bangalore

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

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Medical Superintendent, Scudder Memorial Hospital,
Kelly's Road, Ranipet-632401
Email ID: rao693@rediffmail.com

Mobile No: 97155 73768, 98947 72075

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DEEPA SAMUKAM JANARDHAN** alias **S.J. LAXMI DEEPA** alias **S.J.Lakshmi Deepa** D/o S.B.JANARDHANAN, aged about 38 years, residing at No.79, 'H' Colony, 2nd Main, Indiranagar, 1st Stage, Bangalore-560038, **have changed my name to DEEPA S.J,** vide affidavit dated 01.09.2020 before Notary Public **O.S. CHENGAPPA,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHAHEEN SARKAR, W/o Angshu Sarkar, resident of Radiant Jasmine Terrace, Block-C 615, Jakkur Road, Raitara Santhe, Shivanahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064, have changed my name from **SHAHEEN SARKAR** to **SHAHEEN FAROOQI** vide affidavit Dated 05/09/2020 sworn to before Notary Public G.P.Chaya, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **AMEENA YASMIN,** R/at No.1203, IVORY Block, Alahalli, Anjanapura, Bengaluru-560062 have changed my name to **AMINA YASMIN Y** vide affidavit dated:19/02/2020 before notary **M.Rajendra** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **DAVID RAJ S & DIVYA DAVID,** R/a No.11, 1st A Cross, 2nd Main Road, 2nd Stage, Gowthamapuram, Ulsoor, Bangalore-560008, have changed our son's name from **ISAAC NEWTON D** to **DARSHAN ISAAC D,** vide affidavit dated: 03.09.2020, before Notary **D. GUNA SHEKAR,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) RAJASHREE SANJAY LALWANI, Residing at Apartment No. 14242 Tower 4 Building 1 Prestige Falcon City Kanakapura Main Road, Bengaluru-560062, have changed my name to **(NEW NAME) RAJSHREE SANJAY LALWANI** vide affidavit dated 04/09/2020 sworn before Notary Prakash.C., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DILSHAD BEGUM ALSO KNOWN AS AMEENA BI** R/at No.43/5, 2nd Cross, Shamanna Layout, Nayandahalli, Bengaluru -560039 have changed my name to **AMEENA BI** vide affidavit dated:19/02/2020 before notary **M.Rajendra** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **P LOGANATHAN & LEEMA ROSE,** R/a No.10, 2nd Cross, Tank Bund Road, Kanakadasa Layout, Lingarapuram, Bangalore-560084 have changed our son's name form **L JON LEVI VENCUS** to **LINSTON JOHN L,** vide affidavit dated 04.09.2020, before Notary **D. GUNASHEKAR,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) ANISHA SANJAY PREMCHAND LALWANI, Residing at Apartment No. 14242 Tower 4 Building 1 Prestige Falcon City Kanakapura Main Road, Bengaluru-560062, have changed my name to **(NEW NAME) ANISHA SANJAY LALWANI** vide affidavit dated 03/09/2020 sworn before Notary Prakash.C., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **AYESHA SALMA** R/at No. 45, 13th A Cross, Hosa Halli main Road, Padarayanapura, Bengaluru-560026, have changed my name to **UMME AYESHA SALMA** vide affidavit dated:05/09/2020 before notary **M.Rajendra** bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **C DEVARAJ, DATE OF BIRTH 03.08.1957,** S/o Chinnaswamy, residing at Qtr No.91/5, Domlur Army Qtr Hal Road, Domlur, Bangalore-560071, have wrongly mentioned my date of birth as 01.07.1962 **instead of DATE OF BIRTH 03.08.1957 (CORRECT D.O.B)** in my sons service no 14651125N Nk D Senthil, vide affidavit dated 04.09.2020, before Notary public advocate **A R MUNEER AHMED,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAMMAD MORHAF MOAFAQ AL HOMSI & MOHAMMAD MORHAF AL HOMSI, S/o Moafaq, aged about 31 years, resident of #5, 8th Cross Road, Maruthi Nagar, 1st Stage BTM Layout, Bengaluru-560029, Karnataka, India, shall henceforth be known as **MHD MORHAF AL HOMSI,** vide affidavit dated: 05.09.2020 before notary N K LAKSHMANA, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SATISH LAKHMICHAND NARANG,** R/o C7082, Windmills of Your Mind, Road 5B, EPIP Zone, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560 066 have changed my minor daughter's name from **DIYA SATISH NARANG** to **DIYA NARANG** with immediate effect vide affidavit dated 05-09-2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary M Krishnamurthy, Bangalore.

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पत्रांकः 528 **E-TENDER TIME EXTENSION NOTICE** दि० 04.09.2020

Due to unavoidable circumstances the date of online submission and opening of following E tender invited by the office of the Executive Engineer (Maintenance), MB-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) is hereby extended as follows:

Tender No: NIT-28/EE(M)/MB-II/20-21

Name of work / Supply/Services: Annual/Capital Maintenance of Machine No-1,2,3,4, of Dharasu Power House for the year 2020-21.

Last date for submission of bids on website: - 14.09.2020 up to 16:00 Hrs.

Last date of submitting hard copy of documents in the office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), MB-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi): 17.09.2020 up to 16:00 Hrs

Due date for opening the tender on website - 18.09.2020 at 11:00 Hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal **http://uktenders.gov.in**

Executive Engineer (Maintenance)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

Government of Karnataka

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH

O/o Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division,
First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari, (Near Banashankari Temple) Bangalore-560070.

No. EE/RDW&SD/BNG(U)/TND/13/2020-21 Date : 05.09.2020

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE (Short Term)

Tenders are invited through e-procurement for the works approved Under Various Head of grants for the year 2020-21 Under Single Cover System. The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **16.09.2020 upto 4.00 pm.** For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division,
DIPR/DDU/SSC/1029/2020-21 Bangalore Urban Dist., Bangalore

CITY UNION BANK LTD.

Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001.
Phone : 0435-2402322, 2401622 Fax : 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.81,68,483/- (Rupees Eighty One Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty Three Only)** as on **27-08-2019** together with further interest to be charged from **28-08-2019** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mr. N. Parameshwar, S/o. T. Narayan, No.605, 2nd Cross, K R Garden, Opp. NDDB, Koramangala, 8th Block, Bangalore – 560 095. No.2) Mrs. N.Jyothi, W/o. N. Parameshwar, No.605, 2nd Cross, K R Garden, Opp. NDDB, Koramangala, 8th Block, Bangalore – 560 095.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
(Properties owned by Mr.N.Parameshwar S/o.T.Narayan)

Schedule - A

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Residential Converted Property bearing Sy.No.41/5, measuring 01 acre 02 guntas of converted land and 01 Gunta Kharab, converted vide order No.ALN(EVH)SR/505/2007-08 dated : 08-12-2008 approved by Spl. Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, measuring 01 acre 03 guntas situated at Doddakannahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, BBMP Bangalore with a building constructed as per a BBMP approved building sanctioned plan vide LP No.429/2012-13, bounded by : East by : Sy.No.40 of H.V.Narayana Reddy, West by : Sy.No.41/6 of K.T.Muniswamy Reddy's Land, North by : Road, South by : Sy.No.41/1 of D.M. Annaiah Reddy's Land.

Schedule - B

475 Sq.Ft. undivided share, Right, Title and interest in the Schedule "A" property.

Schedule - C

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Residential Flat No.B-403 in Block D in Fourth Floor, "KPR SUNRISE SQUARE" built in SCHEDULE "A" property, measuring 1,620 Sq.ft. of super builtup area, containing 2.5 Bed Rooms, Hall Dining Room, Kitchen, Vitrified Tiles being used for the flooring, Honne and Mathi wood being used for all the doors and windows including the main door along with one covered car parking area in the Basement.

Reserve Price : Rs. 52,00,000/-
(Rupees Fifty Two Lakh only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
29-09-2020	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Banashankari Branch, 784, II Phase 7th Block, Banashankari, III Stage, 100 Ft. Road, Bengaluru – 560 085. Telephone No. 080-26423599, Cell No. 9379877590.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Banashankari Branch, 784, II Phase 7th Block, Banashankari, III Stage, 100 Ft. Road, Bengaluru – 560 085.** **(3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No. 080-26423599, Cell No. 9379877590.** **(5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" & "Whatever-thereis", basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **2.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the Sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 04-09-2020 **Authorised Officer**

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TTD has temporarily suspended sarva darshan tokens, which were started being issued a few days ago, with immediate effect to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at Tirumala

AIADMK-BJP rift widens, min warns of retaliation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

DESPITE repeated assurances by leaders in both parties that all is well, the war of words has resumed between the ruling AIADMK and its ally BJP after a brief ceasefire. Fisheries Minister **D Jayakumar** sent out a sharp statement on Saturday, warning the ruling party's allies to adhere to the alliance dharma.

"Who is he to command us?" asked the minister when reacting to a statement made by BJP State president L Murugan, who had said that, "ministers must not make comments that would affect the ruling party's ties with the BJP." Jayakumar added that his party had been adhering to the alliance dharma.

"We never deviated from the dharma, not even slightly. The views being expressed by allies must be healthy. When one side keep heaping criticisms, how can the other side remain mute spectators? We are being forced to express our views to counter those criticisms," said the minister. "Our late leaders MGR and Amma have taught us that we should never deliberately drag others into a confrontation. But when others do that, we should give it back."

The minister's statements are part of a series of salvos being fired from both sides. The friction became apparent after VP Duraisamy, a vice president of the saffron party's State unit, made a statement that BJP would lead the alliance in the State. A response to that claim came from the top -- when Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami made it clear that only his party would lead the alliance for Assembly polls.

The tussle resurfaced over Vinayagar Chaturthi celebrations, as the BJP insisted on carrying out processions when the government had banned it keeping Covid containment efforts in mind. Reacting to this, BJP's H Raja hailed his party's rule in Karnataka by calling it a "potent government" for allowing processions. It was, again, Jayakumar who responded saying, "Don't provoke us."

The icing on the cake was a comment made by minister Sellur K Raju last week.

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

K'TAKA GOVT HOPEFUL OF TOP 5 RANKING

As per national survey, state dropped nine spots from 8th to 17th position

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE political turmoil in the state in early 2019 seems to have taken a toll on investor sentiment, as Karnataka's ranking in the latest 'Ease of doing business survey-2019' dropped from 8th to 17th position.

The outcome of the survey, based on the user feedback, is seen as a setback for the state that is making all-out efforts to woo domestic and foreign investors by implementing several reforms. In the last few months, the Karnataka Government has fast-tracked its efforts to attract investors with measures like amendments to the Land Reforms Act and Karnataka Industrial (Facilitation) Act.

Despite the spiralling Covid-19 situation, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar and senior officers from the Industries Department have been holding a number of virtual conferences with investors from across the world to explain about the investment opportunities in the state. The CM had also attended the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos early this year and recently held a virtual conference with investors from the United States of America.

Responding to findings of the survey, Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar said it was done between April 2019 and April 2020 and most of the reform initiatives by the government were taken in the last five to six months. "There has been very good response to the reforms that we have undertaken. In last few months, we have received investment proposals worth Rs 31,000 crore," he told The New Indian Express. Shettar said they will look into the survey report and take necessary measures to ensure that Karnataka finds itself among the top five states in the next year's survey.

The JDS-Congress government was in the power in the state in the first-half of 2019 and the BJP government was formed in July that year. However, it took some time for the new government to settle down and initiate reforms measures.

INVEST IN KARNATAKA: CM TO NRKS

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Saturday appealed to Kannadigas residing outside India to set up software companies and industries in the state, while promising all support from the government. Speaking after inaugurating the AKKA World Kannada Sammelana in the US, which started on Saturday, Yediyurappa said Kannadigas are known for their generosity. During Covid and floods, Kannadigas residing across the globe helped by providing ration kits and PPE kits, he pointed out. Yediyurappa appealed to them to develop the schools and colleges they had studied in or those in their hometowns. "If you are ready to set up companies in Karnataka , we will provide all support", he said.

We were victims of moral policing, says actor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

KANNADA actor Samyuktha Hegde has alleged that she and her friends were 'moral policed', abused and attacked by a group of people while they were doing exercises at a park next to Agara Lake in HSR Layout on Friday. She has filed a complaint and the HSR Layout police have filed a non-cognizable report (NCR).

She said that their outing turned into a nightmare when people led by citizen activist and All India Congress Committee (AICC) member Kavitha Reddy heckled them for allegedly wearing 'indecent clothes' inside a park claiming that it was against the park rules.

A 16-minute video posted on Instagram on the actor's handle shows she being accused by the crowd of behaving indecently inside a public park. The video has gone viral.

> I had my pullover on. We were just exercising with hoops and this woman came to us and started saying we were being indecent for wearing a sports bra in a public place
> **Samyuktha Hegde, actor**

> It's just her story and there is no proof of anything. It's unfair that the celebrity used social media to target others. I got a call from the guards requesting me to help them
> **Kavitha Reddy, AICC member**

As per the video, several people who backed the activist closed the gate of the park and called the police.

The video shows the actor being accused of inappropriate dressing. The actor was wearing a sports bra. "I had my pullover on. We were just exercising with hoops and this woman came to us and started saying that we were being indecent for wearing a sports bra in a public place. Now people are saying that we consume drugs," the actor said in the video. A short video of the activist allegedly physically assaulting one of her friends was also uploaded on Twitter which gained the actress widespread support against moral policing.

The police who arrived there eventually stated that no laws were broken by the actor and escorted her away.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Joshi Srinath Mahadev informed *TNSE* that "we are waiting for the actress to register a case. We were told that she will be coming with a lawyer to register an FIR. Once that is done, we will take it forward." However, despite several attempts, Samyuktha was unavailable for comment.

Kavitha told *TNSE*: "It's just her story and there is no proof of anything. It's unfair that the celebrity used her social media to target others. I got a call from the guards requesting me to help them resolve the issue. Music and dance are not allowed because it is against the rules. I asked them to apologise. When they refused, I called the police. I lost my cool, which was wrong, when one of the girls used a bad word."

Covid-19 surge: Kerala to test all residents in containment zones

DILEEP V KUMAR @ T'Puram

THE way surveillance against Covid-19 is being carried out in the state will soon undergo a paradigm shift as the entire population belonging to a containment zone will now get tested for the Novel Coronavirus. To detect the virus at the earliest and contain it, the state health department might extend the operation of surveillance teams in containment zones also.

At present, testing the entire population and house-to-house visits of surveillance teams are limited to high-risk areas. The state's change in policy comes close on the heels of the health ministry's Advisory on 'Strategy for Covid-19 testing in India,' released on Friday.

"What the ministry says is that the advisory is generic in nature and the state health authorities could modify the same as per their discretion. But considering the high-risk situation at hand, when it has been warned that the next fortnight is crucial for the state, the instructions are generally acceptable," said a senior officer of the health department.

People move around a containment zone in Kozhikode on Saturday | TP SOORAJ

However, the officer added that a final decision should come from the high-level committee chaired by the chief minister. It is learnt that the state expert committee and state medical board constituted for Covid-19 might provide advice onthe same.

"Earlier mass testing was carried out in areas like Ponnani, Poonthura and other areas. But there the entire population was not covered. The new advisory suggests that mass testing should not get limited to high-risk areas but have to be extended to containment zone areas. Through this, early identification of the cases will become possible," added the officer.

At the same time, the advisory mulls rapid antigen assay for testing the entire population in containment zones.

PM-KISAN SCAM

42,000 ineligible beneficiaries in 2 districts

R SIVAKUMAR
@Vellore/Tiruvannamalai

THERE are over 42,000 ineligible beneficiaries of the PM Kisan scheme in Tiruvannamalai and Vellore regions, a probe has revealed. Following uproar over a possible scam being perpetrated across a few districts, officials of the agriculture and revenue departments launched a probe.

"Around 32,000 ineligible persons benefitted through the scheme in Tiruvannamalai alone," said District Collector KS Kandasamy. "We have begun the process to retrieve the money from the accounts of these people. So far, we have collected ₹2.25 crore from such accounts. All cash transfers made into these accounts since April 1 have come under our scrutiny."

The Collector added that the bank officials had partially frozen these accounts, by stopping withdrawals. Meanwhile, field officers are tracking those people who have already withdrawn the amount, to persuade them to return the cash. In the combined Vellore region -- comprising Vellore, Tirupattur, and Ranipet districts, have 10,000 ineligible beneficiaries, said a senior official. From them ₹35 lakh has been recovered.

Express had earlier reported how the scam happened – a few government department officials convinced members of the public to apply for money under the scheme by submitting their Aadhaar and bank account details, though they did not qualify for the scheme.

RIDING THE WAVE

After the Andhra Pradesh government eased Covid-19 restrictions and reopened tourist spots from Saturday, surfing boats are out and running in Visakhapatnam | G SATYANARAYANA

Trial in Kerala's first IS case in final stage; verdict on September 9

TOBY ANTONY @Kochi

THE trial in the first Islamic State (IS) case in Kerala in which charges of waging a war against a friendly nation or Asian power was slapped on the accused will conclude at the NIA Court in Kochi soon. The case registered against Thodupuzha native Subahani Haja Moideen who fought the war in Iraq for the IS is the first such case in Kerala in which charges under Section 125 of the IPC were invoked.

"The trial in the case is at the concluding stage. The court has scheduled the final hearing for September 9 after which the date for pronouncing the verdict will be fixed. This case is unique as it is one of the rare incidents in which an accused after participating in a war abroad for a terrorist organisation returned," an official said.

The court has examined around 50 witnesses as the trial in the case started in 2019. Subahani the sole accused in the case, is currently lodged at the High-Security Prison at Viyyur, Thrissur. During the lockdown period, the court held the trial through videoconferencing. Arjun Ambalapatta is the prosecutor for NIA, while advocate V T Raghunath appears for the accused.

Subahani was arrested after members of Ansarul Khilafah - Kerala who followed the radical ideology were busted by NIA in 2016. However, as Subahani had travelled to Iraq to fight for the IS then, the case was split. The NIA turned one of the co-accused as an approver.

As per the chargesheet filed against Subahani, he was in Iraq and Syria between April and September 2015. "He was trained by the IS in Mosul in Iraq on combat and warfare and was deployed by the terrorist organisation on the war front in Iraq to wage a war against Asiatic powers which are in alliance with the Government of India," the chargesheet stated.

He decided to return after seeing an IS fighter charred to death on the battlefront. He was held up at Raqqa in Syria when he asked permission to return to India.

EXPRESS READ

Four inter-state chain snatchers held

Bengaluru: CCB police on Friday arrested a four-member Iranian gang, who were allegedly involved in 30 chain snatching cases across the city, and more across the country. Booty worth Rs 85 lakh was recovered. The accused are Abu Hyder Ali (52), Hussain Ali (29), Mehadi Hasan (31) and Sadiq (45). Police said the gang targeted senior citizens in the city. **ENS**

SWR to run special trains

Bengaluru: The South Western Railway will run seven pairs of special trains starting September 12, which are part of the 40 special train services being announced by the Railway Board for operations. Some of them are: KSR Bengaluru – Mysuru – KSR Bengaluru Special Express; Bengaluru Cantonment – Guwahati – Bengaluru Cantonment Special Express; Yesvantpur – Bikaner – Yesvantpur Special Express. **ENS**

Temple, two mosques to be rebuilt at TS Secretariat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

CHIEF Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Saturday said the temple and two mosques, which had been damaged during the demolition of the old Secretariat, will be constructed on the same premises at the State government's expense.

The temple will be built in 1,500 sq yard and two mosques in 750 sq yard each, which would include quarters for Imams, he said. While the foundation stone for the places of worship would be laid on the same day, after the monsoon session, Rao said the construction will be fast-tracked, mirroring the true Ganga Jamuna Tehzeeb of Telangana.

The Chief Minister said this at a meeting with the elders of the Muslim community, including Home Minister Mohd Mahmood Ali, MP Asaduddin Owaisi and MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi, at Pragathi Bhavan. The mosques, which would be constructed at their original locations, would be handed over to the State Wakf Board, and the temple to the Endowments Department.

Since there is a demand from the Christian community that they should have a church in the new Secretariat complex, the government will construct one, Rao said. "Telangana treats all religions equally and will practise religious tolerance. It is a symbol of Ganga Jamuna Tehzeeb. Hence, new places of worship will be built in the new Secretariat for all religions," he said.

Rao also assured the Muslim delegation that the government would expedite the construction of the Anees-ul-Gurbah, the institution which shelters orphaned Muslim children and educates them.

150 acres of Bannerghatta forest land still with farmers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A lot of preparation went into it in the last three months involving proper documentation and study of all required legal proceedings by Range Forest Officer (RFO) S R Krishna. DRFOs Shiv Shankar and Balakrishna in Anekal Range and other staff were part of the recovery team.

Speaking to *The New Sunday Express*, RFO Krishna said, "Three ranges – Kaggalipura, Bannerghatta and K R Puram -- with a staff of 100-150 have worked day and night to recover lands in Bhootanahalli. They have worked every day withstanding all pressures and we did not take the help of the police. Another 60 acres need to be recovered."

The Bhootanahalli Minor Forests comprising 180 acres is part of Survey No. 67 and was completely encroached before 2006. During 2006-07, 86 forest offences cases were filed in the high court while 21 people went to the high court and filed a writ plea and another 17 in the Anekal JMFC. Only two cases of 4 acres each went in favour of people while the rest in the forest department's favour. So, with the vacation of the stay on Bhootanahalli MF, the department moved to recover the lands. However, litigation continues with respect to another 150 acres, still under the control of farmers.

The total area of Survey No. 67 is 539 acres and the department had in its custody only 118 acres. And the process to recover this big chunk of forest land has been going on for decades.

The best revenge is massive success — Frank Sinatra

WHY THE ECONOMY CAN'T WAIT ANY MORE

THE expected has come to be. Earlier this week, India was informed that the economy had contracted by 23.9 per cent in the April to June period of financial year 2020-21 — the worst contraction among major economies. Essentially, the contraction validates that India had a severe lockdown and the consequence of the shutdown. There has been much lather about why, what, how et al — for instance, on the claim of the chief economic adviser that India is currently "experiencing a V shaped recovery". The discourse is engaging and yet distracting.

The real threat confronting the long-term sustainability of the India Story precedes the lockdown — and is visible in data for the previous quarters. Manufacturing, billed as a way out of low-and-yet-not-middle income rut, grew at an average of barely 3 per cent in the past eight quarters. Mining and quarrying, which deliver jobs and monetisation of minerals, has recorded negative figures in five of eight quarters. Construction, which is a major job provider at the intersection of urban and rural economies, grew by just 3.7 per cent in eight quarters preceding the pandemic.

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
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The parade of sub-optimal performance — driven by a series of disruptions from demonetisation to GST to the sclerosis of credit delivery — is reflected in the overall picture. GDP for eight quarters preceding the pandemic has been just 5.2 per cent and a GVA of 5 per cent have hurt savings and investments. The lower average has profound long-term implications.

Assume the economy will take two or three more quarters to normalise. The consequent loss of incomes, revenues, jobs and enterprise value will weigh heavily on revival. Neelkanth Mishra at Credit Suisse estimates 50 per cent of loss in GDP is borne by the government — it gets socialised. Of the rest 25 per cent will be borne by wage earners, 15 per cent by the informal sector and 10 per cent by corporates. This means millions of households could be pushed below poverty line and will affect demand and consumption. A poorer kitty would leave informal enterprises and corporates with no headroom for new investments.

The simple arithmetic of reverting to even pre-pandemic levels is daunting. To appreciate the risks embedded in the spectre of lower than potential growth consider an analogy from cricket. The longer the batsmen allow dot balls, the lower are the chances of achieving the required strike rate — and a Dhoni or Tendulkar type finish would require a quantum change in global growth which looks unlikely. The principle of growth tells us that the longer an economy performs below its potential, the deeper it will drag its potential growth rate. As technology expands its footprint, the scope for job creation will shrink. The longer a person is unemployed the higher are the chances of the person being unemployable.

It is true that the RBI has acted with agility and sagacity cutting interest rates, enabling liquidity and has followed the end of moratorium with a promise for restructuring of loans. It has also crafted new inclusive lending norms — including smart financing avenues for agri start-ups, input integration and solar power farms. Much will depend on execution. Be that as it may RBI's lending power is not the same as government spending power. The circumstance calls for urgent intervention to address the demand side of the economy. However, the government believes "the evidence is that the problem is not susceptible of stimulation by fiscal or government measures" and that government may look at second stimulus package once COVID-19 abates. The hypothesis of the government and the wait and watch approach is baffling and problematic.

Classically, stimulus is about creation of jobs to generate income and spur demand — in that order. India needs to ramp up testing across states, staff health care centres and expand access to telemedicine. Students have been shut out of schools. Access to devices, data connectivity and tutors on contracts to assist teaching would help. Would these not help manage the effects of pandemic and stimulate the economy?

The rural economy is the only consistent performer and new initiatives in agriculture call for improved rural connectivity for better access to inputs and markets. The money order economy of many has been badly hit. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is the sole lifeline for millions of migrant workers who went back home. There is speculation that the scheme could find an urban avatar. These programmes implemented by state governments are in dire need of funds. Must that wait for COVID-19 to abate?

The call for urgent intervention is essentially a cry for a measure of certainty that there is a plan — even if actual expenditure is phased over time. The consequence of a delayed stimulus package is a deeper contraction and a steeper climb for revival. What the government may be trying to avert in costs will visit the budget as a price — lower growth, lower revenues and higher deficit. Context is critical. The principle in medicine and economics are not dissimilar — earlier the better. It is useful to remember what Roman educator and thinker Marcus Fabius Quintilianus said, "Whilst we deliberate how to begin a thing, it grows too late to begin it."

ALL THE LYING THEY HAVE DONE

POINT OF VIEW

TJS GEORGE

A few days ago, for the first time in my eventful life, I felt jealous of the Americans. I was watching a press conference with President Trump facing his usual crowd of White House correspondents. One of them, with no dramatics, leaned back on his chair and asked matter-of-factly: "Do you regret all the lying you have done to the American people?"

Just like that. Direct and to the point. Trump was taken aback by the sheer effrontery of the question. Not believing what he heard, he asked for a repeat and the reporter put it as plain as before: Any regret for all the lying of the past? Trump was now sure of the question and the sting in it. He did not try to answer. He moved on to the next question. Now you see why I felt jealous of America. I can't imagine anyone asking the prime minister of my country whether he regrets "all the lying he has done".

Anyway, our Prime Minister never calls a press conference. The farthest he goes is conversation with a hand-picked press person. What was described as a press conference was held in 2019 with him just sitting at a table, leaving it to his faithful Home Minister to field the questions. As far as Modiji is concerned, his radio monologue '*Mann Ki Baat*' is the best press conference. It is a press conference without the press.

Clearly, our Prime Minister knows what is the most effective way to project his persona and thereby strengthen the country. The power of his personality has made India's press so patriotic that the Prime Minister can face it with complete confidence. Even then, Modiji is extra cautious and ensures that there is no occasion for anything untoward to happen. After all, it was an Indian-American named Shirish Date, working for Huffington Post, who asked the question that stumped Trump. Which shows that if you have Indian blood in your veins, boldness can suddenly break out. Better not to take chances. No press conference, period.

Once upon a time things were different. Jawaharlal Nehru was a star at every press conference he held. Often it was a free-for-all, with correspondents not formally accredited, diplomats and even interested locals attending. Nehru would hold them all spellbound. Not behind was A B Vajpayee with his easy-going style, his love of humour, his camaraderie. Modi is the first PM to see wisdom in avoiding the press. It shows how India has changed. Is it a change for the better? Or, is it a change that points to a lack of self-confidence in the top leader?

A couple of times he held what he presented as a press conference. He would invite a couple of unknown journalists to his chamber and let them ask pre-arranged questions to which he would give pre-arranged answers.

Clearly, our Prime Minister knows what is the most effective way to project his persona and thereby strengthen the country. The power of his personality has made India's press so patriotic that the Prime Minister can face it with complete confidence

Sometimes, the journalists would turn out to be so unjournalistic that they would ask questions like how the Prime Minister ate mangoes. Modiji must have finally grasped the ludicrousness of such shows. He is not hosting any more of them.

We must see this as part of the peculiar kind of democracy that has developed in our country. The organisation called Reporters Without Borders issues every year what it calls World Press Freedom Index. The 2020 rankings are led by Norway and Finland. India figures below countries like Thailand, Philippines and Afghanistan at rank 142 with an "abuse score" of 31.35. That is 142 out of 180 countries. The average Indian, subject to the traditional view that press freedom is basic in the country, may find some recorded facts difficult to believe. Example: 55 Indian Journalists Arrested, Booked, Threatened for Reporting on Covid-19 (The Wire); Under Modi, India's Press is Not So Free Anymore (The New York Times). Reporters without Borders puts it bluntly when it says that India's low ranking is due to the Government "tightening its grip on the media and pressurising it to toe the Hindu nationalist Government's line".

What the reporters asked Trump at his press conference will remain a "quotable quote" wherever government-press relations are discussed. It will be a marker in media history and in the history of democracy. But it won't make any difference to the government-press relations in India. For a variety of reasons, the Indian media today is not what it was, nor what it should be. That is not good for India or the media. But that's how it is in Modiji's India.

MEDIUM SELLS PUFFERY & IGNORANCE FOR PROFIT

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
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THE Indian media is a misnomer. It's mostly via media. It's the best trifle-a- minute regurgitation of insane sound bytes. It's a nonstop cacophony of epithets that don't unite but divide. It doesn't inform. It deforms the information system. With minimisation of news and maximisation of valuation, Indian news media has become the manufacturer of both news and its ingredients. It has given up its traditional role of collector and disseminator of correct and credible news. The unnatural death of a popular film star has now become the perfect parameter for judging the success and failure of a media organisation.

In New Age journalism, media mojo lies in changing consumer choices rather than providing credible corroborations. Contentious content is the fastest selling news product de-jour. Instead of making viewers better informed, the decomposed composition of a moving frame accompanied by ferocious octaves hawking inanities as exclusive news from a toilet or a rooftop is the basic requirement of news illiteracy. Unsubstantiated and sensational personal details about the food habits and health of an individual are touted as the most impactful parts of the everyday news narrative. Television and digital news have lost both in terms of content and credibility. Fiction is served up as facts. News channels devoting over 70 percent of time on just one individual or a sordid incident for months, reflects the growing redundancy and irrelevance of serious and independent news journalism.

The fatal fallout is not due to news famine anywhere in India. In fact, post Covid-India is the most fertile hunting ground for getting news that matters and information that influences policymakers. From numerous sagas of success to stories of savagery are waiting to be told and shown. The ground level reporting about how a nation of 1.3 billion people is coping with the Coronavirus in the remotest parts of India could serve as motivational models for others to follow. But Indian TV channels are salivating to learn about the habits of Indian celebrities, known or yet to be known, and how they are spending their time at home gaming, dancing and cooking. Unfortunately, the Indian news establishment is defined by new medium, which has sprouted all over the country in the form of social and electronic platforms. An idiot box, a palm size smart phone or an iPad are vehicles to spew titillating, sadistically scintillating and corrosively captivating clips of news and venomous views.

Ever since the electronic media replaced its print counterpart as the most sought after vehicle for promoting markets for goods and services, pecuniary compulsions dominated the composition of the news basket. The Television Rating Point (TRP) is the tool that decides the fate of a news bulletin or programme. Based on opinion collected from less than 50,000 households, TRP is the mirage of total TV viewership. With all the rating agencies and regulatory institutions dominated by media owners or advertisers, the credibility of data about the quality and quantity of audiences provided by any organisation is suspicious. Yet in the mad rush for chasing TRPs, noise erases news in newsrooms.

Lately, the coverage over Sushant Singh Rajput's death defied all the principles of objective and fair reporting. Many TV channels took extreme sides but provided very little information. In fact, a section of the media even played the role of investigator, prosecutor and judge. The stories about SSR weren't confined to the how-why-and-where of the incident, but focused on the when-and-where his death could influence an electoral verdict. Investigating agencies were driven by planted "explosive evidence" provided by the news channels instead of digging out the truth themselves.

L' Affaire SSR proved Marshal McLuhan absolutely right. Almost five decades earlier McLuhan wrote, 'Medium is the message.' For the media philosopher, the quality of the message is decided not by the accidents and incidents taking place in society. It is tailored and coloured by the ideological choices and ownership character of the medium. Unlike in the past, the media mediums are now commercially and ideologically aligned. Once upon a time, the Indian media was led more by professionalism and less by profit. Those who had minimum corporate interests owned a large number of media houses. As India globalised through marked induced reforms, the maximisation of valuations and minimisation of news became the twin mantras for the success of a media house. Invisible and low-profile owners were replaced by highly paid CEOs, who converted the promoters into market mavens and influencers.

It is the information and the content generated, conceived or invented by the new medium that has shaken the trust of readers and viewers in the media. The money minded communications outfits are like start-ups, which don't need any experience, gravitas or analytical skills

Yet, print media was able to retain its credibility and acceptability because content needs words not voice. Thankfully, print news hasn't been fully replaced by TV noise.

However, the nexus between the corporate and New Age media is damaging the architecture of information as a whole. Surprisingly, none of the professional agencies provide total viewership of news channels. They only provide the TRPs or absolute number of impressions. Even then, according to rough estimates, not more than eight million (less than one percent of total viewership) people watch prime time news in all news channels on a daily basis. On the other hand, around 450 million readers go through a newspaper every day.

But the medium has now acquired multiple faces, arms and eyes. Newspapers or TV channels are no more the mediums for carrying messages. Wireless communication carries info-bytes faster than the speed of a supersonic jet. India alone has over 560 million internet users, 34 million Twitter members and over 350 million Facebook accounts. An algorithm written by Team Zuckerberg transmits messages to billions of people worldwide. YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn and other social media platforms deliver messages that can cause riots or create celebrities. Heads of the government roll out red carpets to new medium owners than they ever did to proprietors of newspapers with large circulations.

It is the information and the content generated, conceived or invented by the new medium that has shaken the trust of readers and viewers in the media. The money minded communications outfits are like start-ups, which don't need any experience, gravitas or analytical skills. India now boasts of 850 TV channels, including over 300 news channels. They provide employment to over 80,000 people. Most of them haven't been taught even the basic principles of journalism. They have to only provide suitable input to the anchors who become the mediums to convey the message laced with their characteristic colour and style to their target audience. The formula has generated both moolah and might, so far.

Information is no more power. Revenue is. The medium has become an instrument which carries advertisements and propaganda camouflaged as news. McLuhan once announced that advertising "was the greatest art form of the 20th Century" and defined as "an environmental striptease for a world of abundance". Indian medium is just getting there. It serves news in just black noise with puffery, not sense, as the news neophyte's remote control.

QUOTE CORNER

I have had certain discussions with him (Trump) in the past where I've told him that I thought some of the rhetoric was problematic... if I did talk to him be clear about how — just the importance of making sure that people have confidence in election

Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook CEO

I hope the world, not only the whole of Hong Kong... could know that the national security law is actually not a legal thing, but a political tool for the regime, for the government to suppress political dissidents

Agnes Chow, Hong Kong democracy activist

I guess what I'm trying to say is, it's never a bad thing to ask for help if you need it, or to tell somebody how you feel. Showing your vulnerable side doesn't make you weak, instead, I like to think of it as a chance to become stronger

Lewis Hamilton, Six-time F1 world champion

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Hands of cops are tied

During a virtual interaction with police officers, PM Narendra Modi urged the IPS recruits to inspire trust rather than instill fear in the public. He has said that the police should avoid flaunting the uniform to display authority, but, instead, win people over with lasting compassion. Unfortunately, in our country, no police officer can function independently as his actions are invariably dictated by political leaders. They are only puppets in the hands of the powers-that-be. In such a scenario, how can one expect a cop to do his job as he deems fit? Can one expect him to be humane to someone when the political boss decides otherwise?

PG Menon, Chennai

Education policy needs a plan

It is with reference to the editorial page article, 'Vocational education for Atmanirbhar Bharat' on September 5. Introducing vocational education at an early age would become a barrier for many first generation learners and those from disadvantaged background to access higher education. So, the present scheme would lead to more dropouts. It appears to be the government's intention to confine underprivileged students to vocational education while others can access better opportunities. Moreover, if higher education opportunities are not available, students entering vocational stream may end up having minimal education and a low level job. At present students, who finish higher secondary in agriculture vocational stream, find it difficult to enter UG programme in agriculture since only a small percentage of seats are reserved for them.

P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Safety norms are paramount

With four decades of engineering experience , with half of them in shipbuilding and shipping operations, I feel agitated by reading reports about the frequent fires on ships. While there are very strict rules for construction, repairs and maintenance of ships by the Classification Societies, those who fly flags of convenience seem to be flouting some of them in between the mandatory survey periods leading to avoidable accidents. Such occurrences can be prevented by some surprise checks and punishments to officers found violating the safety rules. The number of experienced surveyors may be increased to make this happen and prevent losses both to human life and to environment.

S Srihari, Chennai

Railways not always at fault

This has reference to the article 'Railways, accidents, and death on the tracks' which is insightful. Bad news travel fast. The views of the public is that our Railways are responsible for numerous accidents and deaths every year. While criticisms soaked articles were written many in the past, the writer very lucidly accounted how our Railways sustain the brunt for no fault of such tragedies since many deaths happen because of negligence and violation of safety rules made by the public. Being the third largest network in the world carrying more than a crore passengers daily which is more than a population any small country, our Railways deserve salutations from all of us. Our national carrier is the cheapest among transporters in the country. The article is really a morale booster to our Railways.

R Sridharan, Chennai

Bureaucracy needs overhaul

The miseries of Dr Kafeel Khan becoming a " prisoner of conscience" started with his exposing the conditions at BRD Medical College. Later, he was arrested for a speech at AMU during the anti-CAA protests. The Allahabad HC's order acquitting him reminds us of a golden principle in jurisprudence — even if a thousand culprits escape, not a single innocent should be punished. The court remarked the doctor's address actually called for national integrity and unity. By invoking the NSA, the district magistrate has misused non-bailability clause and detention under it without any charges for up to 12 months. The bureaucracy should be revamped thoroughly.

E Ravi Varma Raja, Ennakkad

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Venkaiah Naidu @MVenkaiahNaidu
Day to thank teachers who prevented academic disruption amid Covid pandemic

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
Modi government pursuing "Atma Samparpan Bharat" in the name of "Atma Nirbhar Bharat"

Asaduddin Owaisi @asadowaisi
Modi drops Question Hour, but forces students to give answers in JEE, NEET papers

Can't lose an inch of territory: China after Rajnath meet

China seeks to blame India for ongoing situation at LAC saying New Delhi was 'entirely responsible' for tensions and signalled that talks haven't made headway

PUSHKAR BANAKAR AND MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

CHINA on Saturday sought to blame India for the ongoing situation along the LAC saying that New Delhi was 'entirely responsible' for the tensions at the border signaling that the ongoing talks being held at various levels have failed to make a headway.

"Causes and truth of the current tension on the China-India border are clear, and the responsibility entirely lies with India. China cannot lose an inch of its territory, and its armed forces are fully determined, capable and confident in safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity," the Chinese government said in a statement.

Beijing also urged New Delhi to earnestly implement important consensus reached by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The Defence Ministry responded saying that India too was determined to protect sovereignty and territorial integrity, but urged China against further escalation.

"The two sides should continue their discussions, including through diplomatic and military channels, to ensure complete disengagement and de-escalation and full restoration of peace and tranquillity along the LAC at the earliest," the ministry said. The two statements came within hours of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met his Chinese counterpart Wei Fenghe in Moscow on the sidelines of the SCO defence ministers' summit.

BR Deepak, Sinologist and Chairperson of the Centre for Chinese and South Asian Studies at JNU said, "The statements point to the direction that Chinese have altered status quo and not Indians. The Chinese also have made similar statements. They are two parallel lines. But what the statements also show us is that there is no dilution or resolution of present situation and that disengagement may not happen anytime soon. However, both sides have reiterated communication will remain open. It is a faint ray of optimism."

"It is unfortunate that despite several rounds of talks - military and diplomatic - there has not been any major headway in terms of disengagement and de-escalation. The latest statements from both the sides also show us the same. But intentions of the two sides signal a ray of hope. It is important that the communication channels between the two countries be open," he said.

Army Chief Gen MM Naravane with troops during his visit to Ladakh on Friday | PTI

"China has been biding time and they did not even honour their agreements so many times after the Corps Commander level and Division Commander Level Meetings on various occasions. But, the way Army has dug in is clear that it wont tolerate anything. Yes, both sides talking of going ahead with communication is very important as they are major stake holders," Lt Gen VK Chaturvedi (Retd), Defence Analyst said.

After intervening night of August 29/30 China was forced to make 5 statements, from their Western Theatre Command and their Foreign Affairs Ministry, Important is 5 Corps Commanders meeting has taken place from the Indian side and what we are telling them now is important. India has told them that Trust, Cooperation and Non-aggression to build up the climate

Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (Retd), Former Deputy Chief of Army Staff

Arunachal Pradesh Police probes claims of China's PLA abducting five men near LAC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Arunachal Pradesh Police has started a probe after reports that five youth were abducted by Chinese troops near LAC in Upper Subansiri district.

"SHOCKING NEWS: Five people from Upper Subansiri district of our state Arunachal Pradesh have reportedly been 'abducted' by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA). Few months earlier, a similar incident happened...," Ninong Ering, a Congress MLA, tweeted on Saturday, tagging the post to the Prime Minister's Office.

Lok Sabha member from the state Tapir Gao also took to Twitter to report the incident.

The incident reportedly occurred in a forest area on Thursday when five persons — Toch Singkam, Prasat Ringling, Dongtu Ebiya, Tanu Baker and Ngaru Diri — had gone out for hunting. Two others who managed to escape narrated the incident to the others, a local newspaper reported.

Police and army sources said they had received no complaints in this regard from the families of any of the persons allegedly abducted. However, police officers have been sent to the area to verify the facts.

Men on hunting abducted

The incident reportedly occurred in a forest area on Thursday when five persons — Toch Singkam, Prasat Ringling, Dongtu Ebiya, Tanu Baker and Ngaru Diri — had gone out for hunting.

"We learnt about it from social media. We haven't yet received any formal complaint from the families of the victims. We are trying to verify it. At this stage, I cannot confirm anything," Upper Subansiri SP Keni Bagra told this newspaper. "I spoke to some relatives of the boys who live in Daporijo. They said they are trying to verify it. I also spoke to the officer-in-charge of Nacho police station. He said no complaint has been received," he added.

Ering had shared the social media post of a youth, Prakash Ringling, which read: "My bro Prasat Ringling, son of Tako Ringling, and four others of Nacho circle had been abducted by the People's Liberation Army from Sera-7 (India-China border). So, kindly request the state government and Indian Army to take immediate action to bring these boys back."

Later, he was heard telling a news portal that his brother, a student, was working as a porter with the Army during the Covid lockdown and had gone along with Army personnel to the border.

Defence sources rubbished the claimed about the youth working as an Army porter. "They probably went for hunting when this happened, if at all it has happened. We are not aware of it. No complaint has been lodged by anybody," a defence spokesperson said.

The LAC is around 260 km from the district headquarters, Daporijo. The nearest police station is at Nacho, which is some 130 km away from Daporijo. According to locals, it takes about two days' trek to reach the LAC from the nearest Indian village.

Bagra said in March, too, a person had been abducted but was released a month later. "There is no boundary or barricade along the LAC. The locals venture out for hunting and inadvertently move into Chinese territory," he added.

Covid: India on verge of 2nd worst-hit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

WITH India reporting 86,432 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the total number past 4 million, the country has registered more cases in a day than the total coronavirus cases reported in mainland China, where the pandemic outbreak began.

China has reported 85,112 confirmed cases so far.

India is also set to overtake Brazil as the second worst hit country after the US. It has only 68,622 cases lesser than the Latin American country and could leap ahead by Sunday morning. On Friday, India also witnessed 1,089 deaths due to the infectious disease, taking the total toll to 69,561.

The total number of active Covid cases stands at 8,46,395, as per the official figures. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi account for 70% of the total deaths in the country. These states also continue to report the highest number of cases daily.

On Saturday, the Centre exhorted Maharashtra, Andhra and Karnataka to focus on undertaking aggressive measures to break the chain of transmission and to ensure that the mortality is kept below 1%. The three states have been advised to proactively ensure higher testing, effective clinical management to lower fatality and save lives along with efficient monitoring at various levels.

These states account for about 46% of active cases reported nationally in the last 24 hours. Maharashtra alone accounts for 22% of all active cases reported in the last 24 hours.

Similarly, these three states account for 52% of all Covid deaths reported in the last 24 hours. Maharashtra alone accounted for 35% of all deaths reported in the last 24 hours. The Union home and health ministries asked authorities in these states to optimally utilise RTPCR testing facilities, to strengthen their door to door active case search and to protect their healthcare workers.

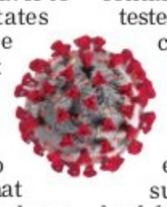
Blood samples being collected a camp for Covid antibody test in New Delhi on Saturday | PTI

ICMR PERMITS 'TEST ON DEMAND', RAT IN CONTAINMENT ZONES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has, in its latest advisory, permitted for the first time Covid-19 testing on demand, but has allowed states to do modifications, if needed.

The new guidelines, released Friday evening, were put in place as per the recommendations of the National Task Force on Covid-19. It advised testing on demand for "all individuals undertaking travel to countries or Indian states mandating a negative Covid-19 test at the point of entry". It said that all individuals who wish to get tested should be allowed to do so. Experts point out that while this has already been happening in most cities over the last few months — mainly in the private sector — officially, only symptomatic individuals could ask to get tested thus far. The new advisory recommended that all individuals living in containment zones should be tested by rapid antigen kits, especially in cities.



For the first time, along with more simplified modalities, the Guidelines provide for 'On-demand' testing in order to ensure higher levels of testing

ICMR advisory

"Ideally, it is suggested that 100 per cent people living in containment zones should be tested by RAT, particularly in cities where there has been widespread transmission of infection," the advisory said.

It also insisted that no emergency procedure such as deliveries should be delayed due to lack of tests, and pregnant women should not be referred for a lack of testing facility.

Also, the existing recommendations related to testing have been extended, elaborated and divided into four parts — routine surveillance in containment zones and screening at points of entry, routine surveillance in non-containment areas, hospital settings and testing on demand, and choice of test (RTPCR, TrueNat or CBNAAT and rapid antigen tests).

Under the category of 'routine surveillance in containment zones and screening at points of entry', the advisory recommended testing of all asymptomatic high-risk individuals including people above 65 and those with co-morbidities.

Besides, it advised testing all symptomatic (ILI symptoms) individuals with history of international travel in the last 14 days, all symptomatic (ILI symptoms) contacts of a laboratory-confirmed case, all symptomatic (ILI symptoms) healthcare and frontline workers involved in containment and mitigation activities and all symptomatic ILI cases among returnees and migrants within seven days of illness, with RT-PCR, TrueNat or CBNAAT being the first choice of test in order of priority.

BOOK ROW

Activist seeks to meet Delhi Police chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AN activist, who was named in a criminal complaint filed by one of the authors of the controversial book '*Delhi Riots 2020: The Untold Story*', has written to the Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava seeking an appointment to submit a complaint against the book.

Activist Saket Gokhale wrote to Shrivastava that he wants to submit evidence 'pertaining to BJP leader Kapil Mishra and his role in instigating the Delhi violence in February', and a complaint against the book and its authors. He expressed also hope that political affiliations would not matter to the police.

This comes after Monika Arora, one of the authors of the book, filed a complaint against Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt Ltd, two news portals, and authors like William Dalrymple and Aatish Taseer, academic Nandini Sundar, and Gokhale.

A controversy has erupted after Mishra, who allegedly played a role in inciting violence against those protesting the Citizenship Amendment Act, was invited as a 'guest of honour' for the online launch of the book.

'Only 10% panchayats have plastic waste management system'

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

IMPLEMENTATION of plastic waste management rules remains poor in the country and 15 states/UTs, including Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, have been fined by the CPCB for failing to submit compliance on plastic waste management. Only 10 per cent of village panchayats have set up plastic waste management system, according to a report by CPCB.

The report on compliance of Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rule, 2018 based on submission by states shows that only 11 per cent of the registered brand owners have engaged with 6 per cent urban local bodies (ULBs) for plastic waste management.

The CPCB has asked 15 States/UTs — A&N island, Assam, Dadar &Nagar Haveli, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, UP and West Bengal to pay compensation of Rs 1 Lakh for the quarter Oct-Dec, 2019 for not submitting PWM compliance report.

The report found that about 80 per cent ULBs and 10 per cent village panchayats have set-up of plastic waste management system as per provision of PWM Rules and 82 per cent ULBs and 9.1 per cent VPs have facility for collection of segregated waste. Only 59.5 per cent ULBS and 5.93 per cent have provision for material recovery facilities. States/UTs are required to set up a PWM system as per rule 7 of PWM rules, 2018 in each and every ULB and VP.

Capacity of recycling is only 63 per cent is utilised which can be attributed to unequal distribution of recyclers and inefficient channelization of plastic waste.

CPCB report

The states have also been asked to provide timelines for management of plastic waste as per provisions of PWM Rules.

"Capacity of recycling (5347 Tonnes per day) is only 63 per cent is utilised which can be attributed to unequal distribution of recyclers and inefficient channelization of plastic waste. Channelization of waste and increased networking of recyclers required for recycling of plastic waste," noted the report. Comparatively less quantity of plastic waste is used in road making, waste to oil, co-processing and Refused Derived Fuel preparation.

EXPRESS READ

80 new special trains to run from September 12

New Delhi: Eighty new special trains will be operational from September 12, reservations for which will begin from September 10, Railway Board Chairman V K Yadav said. He said the trains will be notified later. "Eighty new special trains or 40 pair of trains will start operations from September 12. Reservations will begin from September 10. This will run in addition to 230 trains already in operation," he said. Yadav said the Railways will be monitoring all the trains that are currently in operation to determine which have long waiting list. "Wherever there is a demand for a particular train, wherever the waiting list is long, we will run a clone train ahead of the actual train, so that passengers can travel," Yadav said.

Pak envoy to UN brings up Kashmir issue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

DAYS after India sought the removal of the Kashmir issue from the UNSC agenda, Pakistan said that it cannot be done. "Indian representatives are either deluding themselves, or deluding public by asserting that they will remove Kashmir from the Security Council's agenda," Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations Munir Akram said.

Saying that the agenda of the council cannot be changed unilaterally, Khan said that the UNSC's agenda was set in accordance with rules and can be changed. Replying to this, India has said that the outdated item in the council needs to be removed from the agenda permanently.

NCB gets custody of Rhea's brother; to look for big fish in Bollywood-drug racket link

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

THE Narcotics Control Bureau, which on Saturday obtained custody of Rhea Chakraborty's brother Showik in the drugs case for five days. The arrest is linked to the probe into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death. The agency is said to be probing 'narcotics network and penetration' in Bollywood.

Showik Chakraborty 'dealt in drugs with many others', the NCB told a court as it obtained his custody alongwith that of Rajput's house manager Samuel Miranda till September 9.

"Normally this is not part of our mandate but now that we are getting information... This case has given us an inkling of the network and the extent of the penetration," NCB Deputy DG of south-west region, Mutha Ashok Jain, said. "The whole idea of taking custody remand is to make people confront each other to clarify their individual role. So, yes we will be asking her (Rhea) to join investigation and may be some other people because we also need to clarity as to who did what," he said.

Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty's brother Showik in Mumbai | PTI

Showik and Miranda were arrested on Friday night by the NCB.

NCW demands MLA's arrest

The National Woman Commission has taken Suo Motu cognition of Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik comments against Kangana Ranaut and has demanded that she should be arrested.

NWC chairperson Rekha Sharma says "Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik has threatened Kangana Ranaut and said that she will be beaten, her legs will be broken if she enters in Mumbai. This is highly objectional statements. I will take suo motu and write to DGP."

MAOISTS POSTER

The West Bengal DGP and other senior officials of the force held a high-level meeting at Jhargram district to review the security situation in the wake of Maoists posters being found in the area

6 UP POLICE PERSONNEL SUSPENDED IN MAN'S CUSTODIAL DEATH

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	33	27	Mumbai	32	23
Bhopal	33	23	Panaji	32	25
Jaipur	31	24	Patna	35	27
Amritsar	32	25	Lucknow	36	27
Chennai	35	26	Port Blair	32	26
Kolkata	35	28	Imphal	31	21
Srinagar	27	17	Chandigarh	34	25

BJP on Saturday announced a steering committee headed by Union Minister Nityanand Rai (R) for the Bihar polls | RANJIT K DEY

BJP set to increase digital outreach for Bihar polls

To hold virtual rallies; preparing short films on Modi govt achievements

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

WITH the Bihar Assembly elections likely to be held in a few months, the BJP, already dominant on the digital platforms, is bracing for a change in strategy to rely on the social media to buttress its outreach in the absence of door-to-door campaigns and roadshows amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The saffron party is likely to bank on independent content creators on social media platforms to build the narrative in its favour in the polls.

The BJP, sources said, will prepare short documentaries of 3-5 minutes to highlight the achievements of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre and the NDA government in the state. BJP national president J P Nadda, overseeing the party's preparations for the state elections, is also heavily using the digital medium to hold strategy meetings with his party leaders.

The BJP is also preparing to build necessary digital infrastructure to connect with people through digital rallies, with a thrust to map each gram panchayats. Nadda has already asked BJP MPs to camp in 60 gram panchayats this month to help all the NDA nominees win the elections. The BJP, after testing independent YouTubers in the Delhi Assembly elections early this year, is pinning on the social media platforms for a wider reach.

> With a large population confined to their homes, people are spending more time on their smartphones. This will help shape the BJP's campaign strategy in the Bihar polls.
>
> Senior BJP functionary

"With a large population confined to their homes, people are spending more time on their smartphones. This will help shape the BJP's campaign strategy in the Bihar polls. The Delhi elections, too, the same strategy was tested, even though the results were mixed due to different issues in the national capital," said a senior BJP functionary.

The BJP had failed to cut into the vote-base of the ruling AAP, with party leaders attributing to the mass appeal of CM Arvind Kejriwal overwhelming party's electoral narrative. The Bihar polls are likely to be held in October-November.

Ticket seekers line up, Lalu's security tightened

RANCHI: Taking a strong note over media reports that visitors were flocking at RIMS director's bungalow to meet jailed RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, the district administration has tightened his security and deputed three magistrates to check unwanted gathering. Notably, many of the visitors were seen flocking near the building and dropping their bio-data inside the bungalow seeking their candidature for the upcomming Bihar elections. The three magistrates, deputed in three shifts at the Kelly Bungalow, will keep a close eye on the people meeting the RJD chief and allow only those who have taken permission from the jail authorities.

Tejashwi slams CM over jobs to kin of Dalits killed

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

RJD leader Tejashawi Yadav on Saturday launched a scathing attack on the Nitish Kumar-led state government for its policy to provide a government job to the next of kin of any SC/ST person killed in the state.

On Friday, Kumar ordered the disposal of cases pending under SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act by September 20 this month. He also asked officials to frame rules for providing job on compassionate grounds to one dependent of an SC & ST in the event of untimely death.

The RJD leader accused the CM of playing the Dalit card ahead of Assembly polls in the state, saying that the move would encourage the killings of SC/ST people in the state. He also asked why the people belonging to OBC and general categories have been left out.

"Since polls are nearing, Nitish Kumar has announced govt jobs to kin of SC/ST person killed in Bihar. Why shouldn't jobs to given to kin of people of OBC or general category who are killed? This is like encouraging the murder of SC/ST people," Yadav said.

There are 22 SC communities in Bihar who constitute 17% of state's total population while over 130 castes are under OBC category.

J&K: Over 150 militants killed this year

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

IN a significant success in the fight against terrorism in the Valley, security forces have killed more than 150 militants, including some top commanders, and arrested about 160 over ground workers (OGWs), also known as militant associates, and active militants in Kashmir in 2020, so far.

According to statistics, there have been 75 direct encounters between militants and security forces in the Valley in 2020. Of the 73 encounters, 52 took place in south Kashmir comprising four districts of Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam, while Srinagar has witnessed eight gunfights and shootouts.

Handwara, in the border district of Kupwara, has recorded five gunbattles, followed by four in Sopore, three in Baramulla, one each in Budgam, Keran and Naugam.

In these 75 encounters, a total of 154 militants of different outfits, including chief of Jaish-e-Mohammad Qari Yasir, Hizbul Mujahideen chief Riyaz Naikoo and AGH chief Burhan Koka, were killed.

About 38 security personnel, including 13 army soldiers, 13 CRPF personnel, 10 policemen and two border guards, were also killed in the gunfights. The slain security personnel include an Army commanding officer and a major.

A police official said besides launching anti-militancy operations, security forces are also hunting for OGWs to weaken militants' networks.

"OGWs or militant associates are an important factor of the militancy. They provide logistics and other support to militants. The weakening of the OGW network hampers the free movement and planning of militants," he said.

According to statistics, security forces have arrested 142 OGWs and 21 active militants in the Valley this year, so far.

ARRESTS THIS YEAR

- JANUARY: 16 OGWs, 1 militant
- MARCH: 2 militants
- APRIL: 5 OGWs, 5 militants
- MAY: 24 OGWs, 4 militants
- JUNE: 25 OGWs, 1 militant
- JULY: 14 OGWs, 2 militants
- AUGUST: 15 OGWs, 4 militants
- SEPTEMBER: 4 OGWs

Gunbattles in the Valley

38 Security personnel, including 13 Armymen, 13 CRPF jawans, 10 policemen and two border guards, killed

75 Total encounters between militants and security forces

154 Militants of different outfits, including chief of JeM Qari Yasir, Hizbul chief Riyaz Naikoo and AGH chief Burhan Koka killed

Hizbul trying to re-establish base: Army

Hizbul Mujahideen is trying to re-establish its base in north Kashmir, the army said on Saturday, a day after three militants of the outfit were killed in Baramulla. Commander 10 Sector of the Rashtriya Rifles Brigadier N K Mishra said it was after a long gap that HM militants were killed in north Kashmir.

Ease of doing business ranking: UP jumps 10 places to occupy 2nd spot

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

IN a major achievement, Uttar Pradesh has recorded a jump of 10 positions to rank at number 2 in the ease of doing business ranking 2019.

The 'State of Business Reform Action Plan Ranking' was released by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a virtual function attended by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday.

UP was ranked 12th in the BRAP- 2017-18. Under the BRAP-2019, UP had implemented 186 reforms of 187 reforms suggested by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). This year's ranking was completely based on "user feedback".

> Our government has successfully improved ease of doing business by introducing various IT driven modules. Nivesh Mitra being one among those tools
>
> Satish Mahana, UP industrial development minister

A senior official in the department of industry and infrastructure said the industrial reforms implemented by the Yogi Adityanath government were spread across several platforms, including labour regulation, online single window, access to information and transparency, land administration, construction permit, settlement of commercial disputes, and inspection enablers.

The official added that over 20 departments, including Udyog Bandhu, labour, pollution control board, commercial tax, power, stamp & registration, excise, food safety & drug, and others had converged to implement the reforms.

Andhra Pradesh maintained its top position and was followed by Uttar Pradesh and Telangana. Among union Territories , Delhi got the top spot.

EXPRESS READ

Ex-Assam CM hospitalised

Guwahati: Two-time former Assam chief minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta was admitted to a private hospital in Guwahati due to blood pressure-related issues. According to hospital sources, Mahanta, 68, a stalwart of the regional political party Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), was admitted in the ICU on Friday night. His condition was stated to be stable.

Chhattisgarh: Eight killed in bus-truck collision

Raipur: Eight people were killed and seven others injured in a collision of a passenger bus with a truck near Mandir Hasuad, about 15 km from Raipur, on Saturday. "It appears the speeding bus rammed into the truck, which was standing on the roadside. Eight labourers died on the spot. The injured have been rushed to Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial hospital in Raipur," SSP Ajay Yadav said.

25% discount for tourists travelling to U'khand

Dehradun: Tourists travelling to Uttarakhand will get up to 25% discount or refund of ₹1,000 if they book their stay for three or more days in any hotel or homestay registered with the government. The state government has approved the scheme on a pilot basis for one month to assess the impact. Madan Kaushik, cabinet minister, said: "The decision has been taken to encourage tourism in the state."

NEET

Pak students await visa to appear in exam

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

WHILE lakhs of students in India are preparing hard for the NEET exams these days, three students from Pakistan are waiting for a visa to come to India to sit for the tests.

They are desperately praying that the Indian High Commission in Islamabad will help get to India in time. The three students are siblings from Sindh province and belong to the tribal Bheel community.

Their father Hakim Mal is a doctor in Pakistan and all three children want to come and study in India to become doctors. The admit cards for Anita, Pushpa Kumari and Mahesh Kumar have already been issued and their examination centre is in Jodhpur.

They have applied online under the NRI quota, said their maternal uncle Dr. Ravi Bheel who came to India from Pakistan in 1990 and became an Indian citizen in 2004.

"They have been asked to stay in Islamabad till the Indian High Commission examines their papers. The Covid reports for all three students have come negative. I hope they will tackle this case on a humanitarian basis and issue visas to the three students on an urgent basis," he added.

Covid fallout: 4 tuskers died in Jaipur in 6 months

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE Covid-19 crisis has also taken a toll on elephants of Jaipur. Four elephants have died in well-known Hathi Gaon since the corona-induced lockdown began in March.

An air of anxiety hangs over the village after a female elephant, Rani, died on Thursday night. Her mahout says she had suddenly stopped eating and had an acute stomach pain. Veterinary doctor at the village Neeraj Shukla said Rani had developed a lot of swelling in her feet which caused her acute pain.

He said since the animals don't move around much in the absence of tourists, they don't get to do any exercise. "Their digestive system is suffering. Many of them have stomach ailments." The Pink City is home to over a hundred elephants mostly living in Hathi Gaon, close to the historic Amber Fort. In recent decades, elephant rides have become a prime tourist attraction.

Ballu Khan, president of the Hathi Gaon Vikas Samiti, says before Covid, an elephant died in 3-4 years. "Pre-Covid, each elephant would go on 3-4 rides a day, which was enough to keep it fit. They are now idle and are becoming too heavy," says Khan.

Elephant owners say with no earnings in the past six months, it is tough to feed them, even though they eat just once in a day. The forest department has suddenly stopped its ₹600 per day help. "But owners are doing their best to arrange their food," says Khan.

Mamata orders to develop 646 gram panchayats in Bengal in two months

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

EYEING the crucial 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has directed officials to develop 646 gram panchayats, identified as under-developed civic bodies, by implementing government schemes and projects on a war footing.

A state government official said the panchayat department has already taken an initiative to start a slew of development projects in the identified civic areas and is aiming to complete the work within two months. "These panchayats could not spend the annual grant of ₹2 crore each and as a result, the people living there are yet to get benefits,'' the official added.

Sources in the state panchayat department said among the identified gram panchayat areas, the most-affected villages have already been listed.

"Four mentors have been appointed for each of 656 panchayats who will prepare a roadmap after studying the basic problems in those areas. They will also look after the development works to be carried out in the 60 days,'' said another official at the panchayat department.

Under the roadmap, works such as supplying drinking water, constructing roads and harvesting rainwater have been given the top priority.

IIT-Guwahati works to thwart cyber data attacks

Collaborating with scientists from the University of Pardubice in the Czech Republic, a team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT-Guwahati) is working towards developing indigenous algorithms that can protect the nation's digital data from cyber-attacks by advanced computers. The team has designed encryption architectures that can be used to protect sensitive health data that is transmitted through the internet. The team is led by Gaurav Trivedi, associate professor, department of electronics and electrical engineering, IIT-Guwahati.

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR
Our correspondent in Guwahati
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GUWAHATI DIARY

Army, NGO help state weavers to spin more profit

The Army has joined hands with an NGO, Aseem Foundation, to enhance traditional designs as per the requirement of metropolitan cities and western countries. When Kalpana Barman, 49, of Sorbhog village got associated with the venture, little did she realise that her traditional skills would get such appreciation. The project is aimed at providing an opportunity to people like Kalpana for self-employment. A statement by the army said the creativity of women in Assam was being taken to the next level by modifying traditional designs to modern needs. "The Army is providing with machines while Aseem Foundation is imparting training and marketing platform. Within a short period, the effort increased the monthly income of weavers three times," it said.

Five held from UP for forging CM's signature

Five people were arrested by the Assam Police from Uttar Pradesh and brought to Guwahati after they had withdrawn money from the Assam Chief Minister's Relief Fund by forging CM Sarbananda Sonowal's signature. Anomalies, detected in transactions, prompted the authorities to direct the CM's Special Vigilance Cell to probe the matter. On August 12, cell's Superintendent of Police Rosie Kalita had filed an FIR after it was revealed during investigation that the forgery was committed by some in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Soon, a team led by Kalita left for UP and arrested the accused from Gorakhpur and Basti.

Assam's top cop wins battle against Covid-19

Director General of Police (DGP), Assam, Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta has tested negative for the Covid-19 and recovered from the disease, officials said. He had tested positive on August 10 and after a day's home quarantine, he was admitted to the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital. On Monday, Mahanta resumed duty and was accorded a hero's welcome at the Assam Police headquarters in the city. "After bravely defeating #COVID_19, our guiding light #CoronaGeneral Sh Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, IPS, @DGPAssamPolice joined Office today," the Assam Police tweeted on Tuesday. Mahanta said his colleagues' love and affection for him has been a source of inspiration for him. Over 3,650 cops have tested positive in Assam, so far and at least 16 of them have succumbed to the virus.

$10 bn

The US Department of Defense said it is sticking with its decision to award a $10 billion cloud computing contract to Microsoft, despite Amazon's resistance

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	31	19	LC	Los Angeles	44	22	SNY
Colombo	30	24	TDS	Melbourne	19	11	LC
Doha	38	29	SNY	Moscow	25	13	LC
Dubai	39	28	SNY	New York	27	19	SNY
Houston	35	24	SNY	Singapore	30	25	TDS
Istanbul	27	19	LC	Toronto	21	16	SNY
London	20	11	LC	Washington DC	29	18	SNY

BIDEN SEIZES ON MILITARY SCANDAL, TRUMP WANTS FOX REPORTER FIRED

Report of Don disparaging fallen military members is on verge of becoming major poll issue

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATIC presidential nominee Joe Biden has declared President Donald Trump "unfit" for the presidency, delivering an impassioned reaction to a report that Trump — who never served in uniform — allegedly mocked American war dead.

The president and his allies have dismissed the report in *The Atlantic* as false.

The allegations, sourced anonymously, describe multiple offensive comments by the president toward fallen and captured US service members, including calling World War I dead at an American military cemetery in France "losers" and "suckers" in 2018.

The reported comments, many of which were confirmed independently by The Associated Press, are shining a fresh light on Trump's previous public disparagement of American troops and military families. That opens a new political vulnerability for the president less than two months from Election Day.

Voice cracking, Biden told reporters on Friday that "you know in your gut" Trump's comments, if true, are "deplorable."

"I've just never been as disappointed, in my whole career, with a leader that I've worked with, president or otherwise," Biden added. "If the article is true — and it appears to be, based on other things he's said — it is absolutely damning. It is a disgrace."

US President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden | AP

He added that "the president should humbly apologise to every Gold Star mother and father, to every Blue Star family that he's denigrated. ... Who the heck does he think he is?"

Trump, in the Oval Office, said no apology was necessary, because it was a "fake story."

Surprisingly, Trump also called for the firing of a *Fox News* journalist who confirmed in a Twitter thread that Trump called US soldiers "suckers".

Fox News is generally pro-Trump and its opinion shows give space to those cheerleading the Republican president.

"Jennifer Griffin should be fired for this kind of reporting. Never even called us for comment. Fox News is gone!," Trump tweeted.

Trump was alleged to have made the comments that disparaged the military in November 2018, as he was set to visit the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery during a trip to France. The White House said the visit was scrubbed because foggy weather made the helicopter trip from Paris too risky and a 90-minute drive was deemed infeasible.

The *Washington Post* cited an unnamed senior official saying that the White House is scrambling to prevent the military comments story from becoming "a major election issue."

Speaking Friday in the Oval Office, Trump denied ever uttering such comments. Trump later suggested the source of the story was his former chief of staff, retired Marine Gen. John Kelly.

Trump said his former top aide "was unable to handle the pressure of this job." *Agencies*

Trump ends anti-racism training, calls it propaganda

WASHINGTON

DONALD Trump has ordered government agencies to end anti-racism training sessions for federal employees on the grounds they amount to "divisive, un-American propaganda." The order comes as Trump works to appeal to his white, blue-collar base while fighting an uphill battle for reelection.

In a memorandum, the White House Office of Management and Budget cited unspecified reports that "employees across the Executive Branch have been required to attend trainings where they are told that 'virtually all White people contribute to racism' or where they are required to say that they 'benefit from racism.'"

It added: "According to press reports, in some cases these trainings have further claimed that there is racism embedded in the belief that America is the land of opportunity or the belief that the most qualified person should receive a job."

"The President has directed me to ensure that Federal agencies cease and desist from using taxpayer dollars to fund these divisive, un-American propaganda training sessions," wrote the office's director, Russell Vought.

He directed agencies to "identify all contracts or other agency spending related to any training on 'critical race theory,' 'white privilege,' or any other training or propaganda effort that teaches or suggests either (1) that the US is an inherently racist or evil country or (2) that any race or ethnicity is inherently racist or evil." *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

BANGLADESH

Gas pipeline blast kills 16 praying at mosque

An underground gas pipeline near a mosque exploded during evening prayers on Saturday outside Bangladesh's capital, leaving 16 worshipers dead and dozens injured with critical burns. The blast occurred Friday night as people were finishing their prayers at Baitus Salat Jame Mosque at Narayanganj, local police chief Zayedul Alam said. By Saturday afternoon, 16 people, including a 7-year-old boy, had succumbed to their injuries. Doctors at a burn unit of a state-run hospital were treating at least 37 people with burns on up to 90% of their bodies, said Samanta Lal Sen, a coordinator of the unit. TV stations reported that because of the impact of the blast, at least six air conditioners also exploded.

THAILAND

Southern province reimposes coronavirus restrictions

A province in southern Thailand has reinstituted strict controls, including a two-week self-quarantine on arrivals from outside, as concerns heighten over controlling the coronavirus. Phangnga Provincial Governor Chamroen Thipphayaphongthada issued an order covering the month of September that also calls for people arriving from high-risk areas to report to the authorities, for face masks to be worn in public areas and for halting activities with a high risk of spreading infection.

SINGAPORE

Govt defends foreign talent after jibe at job held by Indian-origin CEO

The Singapore government has defended the role of foreign talent in the prosperity of its globalised economy amidst claims that foreign professionals, including from India, are taking away jobs from local people. Minister for Communications and Information S Iswaran in a debate in Parliament on Friday said it is important for Singapore to remain open. The debate was on homegrown DBS Bank, which has expanded across the region with a strong presence in India. Iswaran said he is "troubled" by parliamentarian Leong Mun Wai's remarks that DBS Bank does not have a "homegrown CEO". The current DBS CEO, Piyush Gupta, was born in India and became Singaporean.

Aus anti-lockdown protest draws hundreds, many held

MELBOURNE

Over a dozen anti-lockdown protesters were arrested Saturday in Melbourne, as those deliberately flouting stay-at-home orders clashed with Australian police.

Ignoring official warnings and public health orders, several hundred people gathered at an illegal protest -- promoted by several virus related conspiracy theory groups online -- calling for an end to lockdown measures.

A huge police presence responded, arresting 17 as the crowd chanted "freedom" and "scam" towards lines of officers who repeatedly attempted to move people on.

Two protesters were seen raising their arms in a Nazi salute at officers and yelling "Heil Dan", comparing the state of Victoria's premier Daniel Andrews to Adolf Hitler, while standing on the forecourt of the Shrine of Remembrance -- a war memorial which partly commemorates Australians killed fighting in World War II.

Protesters confront police at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne | AFP

Demonstrators moved to a nearby park before being surrounded by police and eventually dispersing.

Officers said they issued 160 fines for breaching health orders and were expecting to hand out more in coming days.

Several attendees told AFP they were protesting the government's response to the pandemic, which has killed more than 865,000 people around the world, labelling it overblown or an outright "scam".

"We are in a city where the cure from Daniel Andrews is actually worse than what's happening," protester Fiona Kat said. *AFP*

No proof yet of Navalny being poisoned: US

US President Donald Trump said he had not yet seen proof that Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny had been poisoned as stated by Germany. "I don't know exactly what happened. I think it's tragic, it's terrible, it shouldn't happen," Trump said. "We haven't had any proof yet, but I will take a look at it," Trump said. "We have not seen it ourselves," Trump said of the evidence from German investigators.

Don campaign team pushes social media limits

A message saying you "won't be safe" in Joe Biden's America. The former vice president shown "sleeping" during a television interview. Biden "hiding" -- alone -- in his basement. All three videos featured in social media of Trump and his team as recently as the past week as he sought to close the gap on his Democratic rival. And each was labeled as false or manipulated content by social media giants and fact checkers. While negative campaigning has long been a fixture of American politics, the open use of digitally-altered images by Trump and other candidates in 2020 has tech giants worried. Twitter has cracked down by removing or labeling several of the president's tweets. Facebook, citing the risk of civil unrest, announced Thursday that it would not allow new political ads on its platform in the last week of the Nov 3 race. There remain questions whether such messages are working on voters but a line has already been crossed.

Police and fire services at outside Broxbourne newsprinters as protesters block the road in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, on Saturday | AP

Climate activists block UK newspaper delivery

LONDON

CLIMATE change protesters in Britain blockaded two printing presses Saturday, disrupting the distribution of numerous national newspapers as they step up 10 days of protests demanding action on environmental issues.

Activist group Extinction Rebellion (XR) targeted both the plants, just north of London and near Liverpool in northwest England, causing delays to deliveries of papers including The Times, the Daily Telegraph and The Sun.

Dozens of activists blocked roads outside the sites using vehicles and by attaching themselves to other obstacles, "to expose the failure of these corporations to accurately report on the climate and ecological emergency".

XR said it was aiming to disrupt newspapers that are part of News Corp., controlled by Rupert Murdoch's family, as well as right-wing titles The Daily Mail and The London Evening Standard.

"The groups are using disruption and their consistent manipulation of the truth to suit their own personal and political agendas," it added in a statement.

Police said they had so far made 72 arrests at the two locations.

Newsprinters, which runs the plants, said printing had been transferred to other sites and apologised to customers for "late deliveries".

The Times also apologised to readers unable to buy copies and said on Twitter it was "working to get newspapers delivered to retailers as soon as possible".

The blockade prompted an immediate backlash from across the British political establishment.

PM Boris Johnson said it was "completely unacceptable to seek to limit the public's access to news in this way".

"A free press is vital in holding the government and other powerful institutions to account on issues critical for the future of our country, including the fight against climate change," he tweeted. *AFP*

WEIRD, WHACKY AND WOW

Israelis rejoice in weed falling from heaven

TEL AVIV: Cannabis rained from on high in Israel's liberal hub of Tel Aviv this week as legalisation campaigners used a drone to airdrop bags of the drug, sparking delight on the ground. "Green Drone" had pre-announced a drop of hundreds of bags, each containing two grammes (just under a 10th of an ounce), on central Tel Aviv's Rabin Square. "It's time, dear friends. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Green Drone distributing free cannabis from the sky," it said on its Telegram channel, quoted in Israeli media. It urged followers to roll up for further dope drops every week at different locations around Israel, although police arrested two alleged drone operators on Saturday. Israeli smokers often use encrypted messaging apps to order weed deliveries, although the drug is illegal in Israel.

Record storm Haishen barrels towards Japan

An extremely powerful typhoon was barrelling towards southwestern Japan on Saturday as authorities issued evacuation advisories to thousands of residents, warning of unprecedented violent winds, heavy rain and high waves

NAME: HAISHEN
Meaning: **"Sea god" in Chinese**

180 KM/HR winds, early Saturday

15 KM/HR speed of Haishen

4,600 people in Tarumizu, Kagoshima urged to evacuate

100 flights grounded, *NHK* reported

HIGH WAVES
Satoshi Sugimoto, an agency official, said the typhoon could generate **high waves as powerful as a tsunami**

1959
The supertyphoon has been likened to a 1959 storm in Japan that left over 5,000 dead

A disaster will occur. There is almost no doubt about it
Yuhei Takamura, a government official

CAN BEACH TRIPS BOOST COVID RECOVERY?

BARCELONA

A hospital in Barcelona is seeing if short trips to the beach can help Covid-19 patients after long and traumatic stays in intensive care units. It's part of a program to "humanise" ICUs. Since restarting it in June, doctors have noticed that even 10 minutes at the beach seems to improve a patient's well-being.

After nearly two months of being sedated and connected to IV lines in a hospital's intensive care unit, Francisco Espana took a moment to fill his ailing lungs with fresh air at a Barcelona beachfront.

Lying on a hospital bed at the beach promenade and surrounded by a doctor and three nurses who constantly monitored his vital signs, Espana briefly closed his eyes and absorbed as much sunshine as possible.

A 60-year-old patient is surrounded by members of his medical team as he looks at the Mediterranean Sea from a promenade near a hospital in Barcelona | AP

"It's one of the best days I remember," he said.

A medical team at the Hospital del Mar — the Hospital of the Seas — is seeing if short trips to the beach just across the street can help Covid-19 patients after long and sometimes traumatic ICU stays.

Dr. Judith Marín says it is part of a program to "humanize" ICUs that the group had been experimenting with for two years before the coronavirus hit Spain.

The strict isolation protocols that have had to be adopted since mid-March undid months of efforts to integrate ICU patients with professionals in the rest of the hospital, the doctor said.

Since restarting the program in early June, doctors said that even 10 minutes at the beach seems to improve a patient's well-being. The team wants to take this anecdotal evidence further, and see whether such outdoor trips can help in the mid- and long-term recovery of Covid-19 patients.

Spain now leads Europe's new virus wave, with the tally close to half a million. *AP*

Taliban return to Qatar for Afghan peace negotiations

ISLAMABAD

TALIBAN officials say a senior delegation returned early Saturday to Qatar, paving the way for the start of peace talks with the Afghan government that are expected to take place in the tiny Gulf state.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The negotiations are the second, critical part to a peace deal the U.S. signed with the Taliban in February in Doha.

The Taliban delegation's arrival in Qatar, where the group keeps its political office, came as a top Afghan government body blamed the militants for delays in starting talks.

In a tweet on Saturday, the spokesman for Kabul's High Council for National Reconciliation, Faraidoon Khwazoon, said the government was ready to start direct negotiations.

"The process of releasing the prisoners is over and there is no excuse for delaying the talks, but the Taliban are still not ready to take part in the talks, " he said, without further elaboration.

Until its February deal with the U.S., the Taliban refused to directly negotiate with the Afghan government.

Washington has ramped up pressure on Afghans on both sides of the conflict to open up negotiations over what a post-war Afghanistan might look like, how rights of women and minorities would be protected, and how the tens of thousands of armed Taliban and government-allied militias are disarmed and re-integrated. *AP*

$541 bn India's foreign exchange reserves surged by $3.88 billion to touch a lifetime high in the week ended August 28, RBI data showed.

AP retains top slot in 2019 ease of doing biz rankings

Uttar Pradesh improved to bag the second spot from 12th last year

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ANDHRA Pradesh has once secured the top position in ease of doing business ranking 2019, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Telangana, said the government on Saturday.

Releasing The 'State of Business Reform Action Plan Ranking', Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the foreign investors are taking India's reforms push seriously, which is evident in the FDI inflow during the global pandemic.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India between April and July stood at $20 billion, driven mainly by Mukesh Ambani's fundraising for Jio Platforms Ltd. She also expressed the reform measures taken by the state governments.

"Some states have shown extraordinary energy in putting together action plans and making sure that reforms happen. States have embraced the true spirit behind the State Business Reforms Action Plan," Sitharaman said. The top ten best performing states are Andhra Pradesh, UP, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Gujarat.

Among the five demarcated zones — Uttar Pradesh topped the ranking from North India, Jharkhand from East, Madhya Pradesh from the West, Andhra Pradesh from South, and Assam from North East. Among Union Territories, Delhi got the top spot.

Parameters for the rankings include areas construction permit, labour regulation, environmental registration, access to information, land availability as well as single-window system.

The rankings were scheduled to be announced in March, but had to be delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The virtual function was attended by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

"The central government has been making efforts to streamline business regulation through a single-window system, labour law reforms, reforms in Disputes Act etc. to make doing business quick and economical," said Goyal.

Telangana slips

In the last ranking released in July 2018, Andhra Pradesh had topped the chart, followed by Telangana and Haryana. This year, UP moved up 10 ranks to beat Telangana to the second spot.

GURBIR SINGH

NEWSCOPE

HOW THE 'CLEAN-CARS' MAN RACED PAST $100 BILLION

PIONEERING electric vehicle (EV) maker Tesla Inc's CEO, Elon Musk, continues to be in the news one way or the other. About a week ago, his net worth crossed $100 billion after a rally in Tesla shares, making him one of the world's 5 centibillionaires. While 2020 has been a write-off year for most, Musk's net worth swelled $73.6 billion this year.

Following the stock-split 5-for-one on 31 August, Tesla soared 12.6% again, adding more than $50 billion to its market cap. Musk, using this surge, is planning to raise up to $5 billion issuing fresh shares, to finance his new Gigafactory (battery unit) under construction in Austin, Texas, and a Tesla-operated robotaxi network.

Two years ago, Elon Musk was in the doghouse. Following a bizarre episode of Musk smoking marijuana on a live podcast with comedian Joe Rogan, shares of Tesla fell more than 9%. The incident capped perception that Musk and his maverick ways were driving the company to ruin.

Around that time in September 2018, the US Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) had brought fraud charges against Musk and Tesla for false claims that they had a deal all wrapped up to take the company 'private'. Musk barely escaped following a settlement with the SEC where he agreed to step down as chairman of the board, and paid out a hefty $40 million in fines. Some thought it was his swan song, but they have been proved wrong.

Future vision

Tesla's market capitalization is currently around $440 billion, rising six-fold since the end of 2019; and 16 times its expected revenue this year. At this valuation, Tesla's market cap is greater than that of Toyota, Volkswagen, General Motors, Ford, Fiat Chrysler, Nissan and Honda combined. These companies sold about 50 million cars and trucks worldwide last year, compared to Tesla's 367,500. So what makes the electric car-maker tick?

Despite never having turned in a full year of profits, Elon Musk has been the darling of investors because he represents the future, a vision with clean transportation and power. They are not really troubled by losses of a few quarters as long as there is a huge waiting list for Tesla's products. Nor are they bothered by a stock that is currently over-valued.

Despite a few blips, Musk's personal equity too has always been high because he's primarily been an 'ideas' man. In 2002, he sold his successful payment company PayPal for $180 million. Some of this formed the seed capital of Tesla, and his aerospace company SpaceX.

Tesla was not founded by Elon Musk. The company was initially promoted by two engineers, Martin Eberhard and Marc Tarpenning, who wanted to make cars that are, in the company's words: "Better, quicker and more fun to drive than gasoline cars." Musk came in as an investor in 2004 with Series A funding of $6.3 million."

Its first model was the sports car 'Roadster' – commercially launched in 2008; but before that, Tesla, along with the Roadster prototype, published its "secret" plan: "Build a sports car. Use that money to build an affordable car. Use that money to build an even more affordable car. While doing the above, also provide zero-emission electric power generation options."

The 'Roadster' was a success because it cracked what other EVs never did — a big and powerful battery that competed in acceleration with the traditional petrol engine and had enough charge for 400 kilometers. Musk took over in 2008 after the 2 original engineer-promoters exited the company. A timely $465 million loan from the US department of energy changed the scale of operations, and Musk was able to launch the popular Model S.

Betting on big ideas

However, Tesla was beset by financial woes, and in 2013, after the Model S sales were slowing, Google almost bought out the company for $6 billion. However, car sales picked up and the company did a rapid turnaround even posting a first-ever quarterly profit of $11m.

Significantly, Tesla's pitch as a company of the future has been bolstered by its success in spawning a slew of environmentally friendly electric power projects. Through its clean energy products – Powerwall, PowerPack, and Solar Roof, it has created a market of homeowners who want to generate and store their own electricity.

Simultaneously, Musk wants to bring Sci-Fi to reality in quick time He wants to build rockets and colonize Mars, and has plans to reach the Moon by 2022 with a paying passenger. He has constructed models of 'Hyperloops' – tubes through which trains can travel at 700mph on a cushion of air (something the previous Government of Maharashtra bought into, but later abandoned); and has plans to build a web of tunnels under cities to relieve congestion.

No wonder investors find value in Musk and Tesla! On the back of its successful Model 3, the company has been in profit for 4 quarters in a row, and touched a new high of annual revenue of $24.6 billion for 2019. Mind you, Tesla still hasn't turned in a full accounting year of profit — in fact, it lost $862 million in 2019. But then who cares!

Business & Beyond

Bharat Masala donates ₹5 lakh to CM Relief Fund

Bharat Masala of Jay Bharat Foundation has donated ₹5 lakh for Covid-19 to the Odisha Chief Minister's relief fund by cutting the cost of this year's Talent Award ceremony. The money was handed over to the collector of Cuttack Bhabani Shankar Chayani, OAS (SAG) in the form of cheque by the Managing Director of Bharat Masala Susant Kumar Panda.

IRCTC's AskDISHA Chatbot provides Live Refund Status

IRCTC is the first PSU to introduce the services of AI-based ASKDISHA chatbot in October, 2018. Recently, IRCTC has upgraded its AskDISHA chatbot with the capability to reply live queries from users related to rail ticket refunds arising out of cancellation, TDR filing and failed transactions as these constitute around half of the total queries. Users can now either key in or verbally communicate their PNR or transaction details to AskDISHA and get their refund status immediately.

Repco's consolidated net profit rises 3.05% in June qtr

Net profit of Repco Home Finance rose 3.05 per cent to ₹69.5 crore in the quarter ended June 2020 as against ₹67.44 crore during the previous quarter ended June 2019, the company said in a statement. Total income grew 4 per cent to ₹341.9 crore. The overall loan book rose 6 per cent to ₹11,979.5 crore. Loans to the self-employed segment accounted for 51.7 per cent of the outstanding loan book and loans against property products accounted for 18.7 per cent of the same.

Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya takes charge as Director (Projects), NTPC

State-run NTPC has announced the appointment of Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya as its Director (Projects). He joined NTPC in the year 1984 as Ninth Batch of Engineering Executive Trainees and was initially posted at NTPC Korba which was then situated in Madhya Pradesh. Bhattacharya is an Electrical Engineering Graduate from Jadavpur University, Kolkata. He has also completed his PG Diploma in Management from MDI, Gurgaon and started his career in Green Field Project Construction, followed by working in the areas of Power Plant Operation & Maintenance, Renovation & Modernization, Environment Management and Technical Services at Farakka.

BPCL to offer stock options to employees

ENS @ New Delhi

STATE-run petroleum major Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) announced on Saturday that it would be offering stock options to its employees at one-third of the market price. According to the exchange filing, its board of directors had on Friday approved the proposed "Employee Stock Purchase Scheme (ESPS) to the specified employees".

This will be implemented through a trust mechanism, and reports say that the trust may hold around 9-9.5 per cent of BPCL's paid-up capital. Of this, 2 per cent is likely to be offered to employees at one-third the price of BPCL scrip in the preceding six months. This will also not result in any change in the government's shareholding in the company.

"The Trust formed for the purpose shall purchase the aforesaid shares from the 'BPCL Trust for Investment in Shares' by way of secondary acquisition through the stock exchanges as per the SEBI (Share Based Employee Benefits) Regulations, 2014 and other applicable laws," the company said.

EXPRESS READ

'Annual subscription needed IPL matches'

New Delhi: Streaming platform Disney+ Hotstar on Saturday said only its annual subscription users will be able to watch all live Indian Premier League (IPL) matches. The new and existing subscribers of Disney+ Hotstar VIP and Disney+ Hotstar Premium will only be able to watch the IPL.

Vinkesh Gulati new president of FADA

New Delhi: The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) on Saturday announced appointment of Vinkesh Gulati as its new president. The tenure of Gulati, Director of United Automobiles based out of Allahabad and Faridabad, will be from 2020 to 2022.

Gadkari tells auto industry to stop imports

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

UNION minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday asked the automobile and components industry to stop depending on imports and start using local substitutes. "I request you, don't encourage imports," he said at an event organized by the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India.

However, automobile sector players feel it is easier said than done. "Can we de-link from imports completely? Neither we can nor we should," said Pawan Goenka, MD, Mahindra & Mahindra, who spoke at the same event.

The two statements come at the backdrop of rising tension between India and China and a record fall in demand for automobile products owing to the economic distress induced by the pandemic.

India's automobile industry imports a large chunk of its component requirements from overseas with over 25%, valued at $4.2 billion, coming from China.

Experts say any attempt at blocking Chinese items would hamper the supply chain.

"We will have to continue importing to get things that some other countries can do better than us. We should avoid knee-jerk reaction or ask for bans of imports or any such acts" Goenka said.

Explaining the rationale behind his call to cut down on imports, Gadkari said the domestic components sector has the potential to develop and export its products to the whole world.

He also highlighted the fact that the Centre has taken several steps to encourage Indian companies to export more, and that the components sector has an opportunity to take advantage of those measures.

"Within five years, we can make India the number one automobile manufacturing hub in the world," he said.

Meanwhile, Tata Motors MD Guenter Butschek said regional lockdowns and a shortage of skilled manpower are the new challenges facing the automotive industry.

Carmakers call for increased industry collaboration, government support

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ALREADY undergoing the worst slowdown in nearly two decades, the outbreak of the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns have hit the automobile industry hard. Facing one of the most challenging crisis, the sector has seen since liberalisation, industry leaders on Saturday called for increased collaboration between stakeholders and regulatory support from the government.

Speaking at the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) in New Delhi, Tata Motors managing director Guenter Butschek said there were new challenges facing the auto sector. "Now that we are in the restart phase, new challenges like growing virus cases and acute shortage of labour have come up. The end of the lockdown doesn't necessarily mean that we are post-Covid, because it's still there, it can possibly create more intermittent disruptions," Butschek added.

The pandemic, he noted, had resulted in significant supply chain disruptions for automakers globally alongside funding issues, and a slump in demand.

"Collaboration in this new environment are equally important between sour suppliers and strategic partners and OEMs," he said.

Hero Motocorp chairman and managing director Pawan Munjal took a similar tack. "A reliance on partnerships and collaborations is essential between Indian auto and component manufacturers, and their global partners and counterparts as an antidote to stagnation and de-growth, and to evolve world-class and technologically advanced mobility solutions," he said.

Happiest Minds raises ₹316 cr ahead of IPO

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

IT services firm Happiest Minds Technologies has raised ₹316 crore from anchor investors, ahead of its initial public offering that opens on Monday.

Some of the anchor investors include Government of Singapore, Goldman Sachs, Kuwait Investment Authority, Nomura Funds Ireland, Jupiter India and Pacific Horizon Investment. A total of 25 anchor investors have been allotted 1,90,30,541 equity shares at the upper price band of ₹166 per scrip. At this price, the company mopped up ₹315.9 crore, Happiest Minds said in a statement.

The IPO will open for subscription on September 7 and close on' September 9. The price band of the offer has been fixed at ₹165 to ₹166 per equity share.' The offer comprises a fresh issuance of shares aggregating up to ₹110 crore and an offer for sale of up to 3.56 crore equity shares. The company's promoter Ashok Soota will offer 8,414,223 equity shares and CMDB-II (JP Morgan Asset Management) will offer 27,249,362 scrips through the offer-for-sale.

Start-up funding picks up pace post lockdown as investors pump in $550 mn in a week

BISMAH MALIK @ Bengaluru

THE start-up ecosystem in India challenged with liquidity concerns due to the Covid-19 pandemic, is gradually attracting investments from overseas and homegrown funds. These firms have raised nearly $550 million this week with edtech leading the fundraising spree followed by segments like house décor, food delivery and online dating.

Even as start-up founders and homegrown investors are wary of Chinese funding amidst growing Sino- India tensions, China's AliBaba has reportedly put off its investment plans for India for the next six months after the Indian government modified its Foreign direct investment (FDI) regulations for the border sharing countries. Despite the Chinese investments slowing down, the funding have picked up pace post July.

Industry observers say that although Japan and the US continue to invest heavily in India, a growing interest is seen from countries like UAE, UK and other developed economies.

Japan's tech investor, SoftBank Group made a re-entry in the Indian start-up funding ecosystem, leading with a $150 million funding round in edtech start-up, Unacademy. Mumbai-based Eruditus , which supports quality education for the underserved population raised $113 million in a Series D funding round in which Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan Zuckerberg's initiative also participated.

New set of investors

A growing interest is seen from nations like UAE, UK and other developed economies, say experts.

Overall, the edtech sector in India has raised more than $1 billion funding from investors during the pandemic and now the funds are gradually eyeing startups in other sectors too.

Earlier this week, home interior major Livspace announced they have raised $90 million in a Series D round led by Kharis Capital and Venturi Partners, which will be used in expanding the footprints and to target profitability.

Besides, Zomato's reported $150 million funds raise from Alibaba's Ant Financial hit the roadblock after the Chinese investor said in a stock exchange filing that it is evaluating its funding in the wake of changed regulations in India.

However, Singapore's investment firm, Temasek holdings has invested $62 million in Zomato as the start-up embarks on a profitability model to launch its IPO.

Hamilton makes record run to claim pole position

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton claimed pole position with a new lap record at Monza for Sunday's Italian Grand Prix with Valtteri Bottas coming second in Saturday's qualifying. McLaren's Carlos Sainz posted the third fastest time and was joined on the second row by Sergio Perez for Racing Point.

EASY FOR DJOKOVIC, TSITSIPAS STUNNED

Chasing 18th Grand Slam title, World No 1 breezes past Struff; Fourth seed from Greece loses to Coric in marathon encounter

AFP @ New York

NOVAK Djokovic sailed into the last 16 of the US Open on Friday as off-court intrigue forced the delay of a men's singles match over issues linked to coronavirus. Djokovic beat Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 in a routine victory for the World No 1, who is chasing an 18th Grand Slam singles title.

Far from routine was a last-minute attempt by New York health officials to prevent France's Adrian Mannarino from playing his last-32 encounter against German fifth seed Alexander Zverev.

The intervention led to a back and forth between tournament organisers and the state government and resulted in the match, which Zverev won in four sets (6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-2) starting over three hours late. "It was a weird situation for me," said Mannarino, one of 11 players put under enhanced safety protocols earlier this week after compatriot Benoit Paire was withdrawn from the tournament after testing positive for coronavirus.

Croatia's 27th seed Borna Coric staged a remarkable Houdini act to stun fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas in a 4hr 36min late-night thriller. Coric appeared to be heading for certain defeat after Tsitsipas, leading by two sets to one, opened up a 5-1 lead in the fourth. But Coric rallied superbly, saving six match points and fighting back to take the set 7-5 to force a decider. Tsitsipas went a break up once more in the fifth but couldn't press home the advantage as Coric forced a tie break before clinching a 6-7 (2/7), 6-4, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/4) win.

Earlier, Japan's Naomi Osaka battled into the last 16 of the women's draw. She required three sets (6-3, 6-7 (4/7), 6-2) and 2hr 33 min to dislodge Marta Kostyuk in an early game at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova returns a shot to USA's Jessica during their third round clash. Kvitova won 6-4, 6-3 | AFP

SELECT RESULTS (RD3)

- **Men:** Djokovic (SRB x1) bt Jan-Lennard Struff (GER x28) 6-3, 6-3, 6-1; Shapovalov (CAN x12) bt Fritz (USA x19) 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2; Goffin (BEL x7) bt Krajinovic (SRB x26) 6-1, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4; Zverev (GER x5) bt Mannarino (FRA x32) 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-2, 6-2; Coric (CRO x27) bt Tsitsipas (GRE x4) 6-7 (2/7), 6-4, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/4).
- **Women:** Kerber (GER x17) bt Ann Li (USA) 6-3, 6-4; Martic (CRO x8) bt Gracheva (RUS) 6-3, 6-3; Osaka (JPN x4) bt Kostyuk (UKR) 6-3, 6-7 (4/7), 6-2; Kontaveit (EST x14) bt Linette (POL x24) 6-3, 6-2; Kvitova (CZE x6) bt Pegula (USA) 6-4, 6-3.

BOPANNA AND SHAPOVALOV MOVE INTO PRE-QUARTERS

Experienced Indian **Rohan Bopanna** and his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov advanced to the pre-quarterfinals of the doubles event. Bopanna and Shapovalov beat American rivals Ernesto Escobedo and Noah Rubin 6-2, 6-4.

EXPRESS READ

7,000 fans set for French league game

PARIS: The French soccer league will witness 7,000 fans in the stadium for a second division match between Auxerre and Clermont next weekend. Because of covid-19 restrictions, a maximum of 5,000 spectators are allowed. Auxerre obtained permission from authorities making the Sep 12 match the first one with more than 5,000 fans.

England pip Oz in first T20 contest

SOUTHAMPTON: England beat Australia by two runs in a thriller to win the first T20I at Southampton. Australia were making light work of a target of 163 while captain Aaron Finch (46) and David Warner (58) putting on 98 for the first wicket. But Steve Smith's exit sparked a collapse.

Brief scores: England 162/7 in 20 ovs (Malan 66, Buttler 44) bt Oz 160/6 in 20 ovs (Warner 58, Finch 46).

MAN OF THE HOUR: FARAH BACK WITH A BANG

Four-time Olympic champion Mo Farah blitzed to a new world record in the rarely-run one-hour event on his return to the track on Friday at an empty Brussels stadium. Here's a look into the details...

LATE BURST

Farah ran with his training partner Bashir Abdi. Abdi took the lead with five minutes left and challenged Farah until the closing stages but ended up eight metres behind. Farah switched to road racing in 2017 but is planning to defend his 10,000 meters title at the Tokyo Olympics next year. Farah switched to road racing in 2017 but is planning to defend his 10,000 meters title at the Tokyo Olympics next year.

FIRST WORLD HIT

While Farah holds every British record for all events between the 1,500m and marathon, it was his first ever world record.

I'm very pleased to break the world record today. What an amazing way to do it and show people what is possible.

Mo Farah

21.330KMS IN 60 MINUTES

Three years after having opted for road running, Farah showed no sign of cobwebs as he ran 21.330 kilometres over the 60 minutes. Farah, who won 5,000-10,000m doubles for Britain at both the London and Rio Olympics, bettered Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie's previous best of 21.285km, set back in 2007, by 45 metres.

I'm very happy. An hour is long, it takes a lot of concentration and focus. After the first half I found my rhythm. I never thought I'd run so far!

Sifan Hassan

5:06 Hassan had an average pace of 5:06 per mile to complete the record-breaking run.

HASSAN SIZZLES

The event also saw Sifan Hassan set a new best in the women's equivalent race. Hassan, the reigning world 1,500 and 10,000m champ, produced a thrilling kick over the final minute to see off Kenya's world marathon record holder Brigid Kosgei (who was later disqualified) and notch up 18.930km. Hassan's final distance added 413m to the previous record of 18.517km set by Ethiopian Dire Tune Arissi in 2008.

Wrestlers prefer home over hospital stay

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

SHIFTED to a SAI empanelled hospital in Sonepat after returning Covid-19 positive on Thursday, three wrestlers now want to move out to some other place. They made a request to Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and attending doctors in this regard.

Olympic-bound Deepak Punia (86kg) along with Navin (65kg) and Krishan (125kg) tested Covid positive after undergoing RT-PCR tests during the national camp that commenced at SAI Centre on September 1.

"Yes, one of the wrestlers called us but that's not in our hands. He has also requested the attending doctors," Vinod Tomar, WFI assistant secretary, confirmed to this daily. "Covid-19 protocols have to be followed strictly so we don't have a say in the matter. Let the doctors take a call."

The trio was asymptomatic. One of the wrestlers told this daily that he hasn't developed any symptoms yet. "I am still not able to understand how I returned positive. The second test has not been conducted yet. I want to shift to some flat in the city as I cannot go to my village immediately. I made a request to the WFI and doctors in this regard," the grappler said on condition of anonymity.

The senior men's national camp commenced even as the women's camp scheduled at SAI centre in Lucknow was postponed after a few female grapplers including Khel Ratna awardee Vinesh Phogat raised concerns over the plan. As far as other male wrestlers camping at Sonepat centre are concerned, they would undergo another test and serve a 14-day mandatory quarantine period before resuming training.

"We were told that the second test will be conducted five days after the first one. However, we are yet to hear in this regard. The wrestlers are doing physical workouts in their rooms. They can now come out of their rooms but cannot leave the hostel," informed one of the coaches, who is part of the camp. The wrestlers and support staff are housed at KD Jadhav hostel in the centre.

Meanwhile, Rahul Aware (57kg) and a masseur reached the centre on Friday. They were tested on Saturday and the results are expected on Sunday. Maharashtra grappler Narsingh Yadav, who is making return to the national camp after four years due to dope ban, has not reached the venue yet.

Cummins not worried about Covid-19 cases in IPL

ASHIM SUNAM @ Bengaluru

AUSTRALIA cricketers landed in England in the last week of August for the ongoing limited overs series. After the completion of the series on September 16, some of the Aussies and Englishmen, including Pat Cummins, Aaron Finch, Jos Buttler and others, are scheduled to fly directly to the United Arab Emirates for IPL 2020.

While players are used to long tours, this will be a different one as by the time the IPL ends on November 10 and Australians return home, it will be 80 days away from their family. Australia players have in the past been allowed to carry their family with them on tours, but in the post-Covid world, there are many restrictions in place. In fact, they will also have very little time to spend with their family as Australia are scheduled to play Afghanistan and India in their summer.

Vice-captain Cummins acknowledges the challenge. "In terms of the mental challenge over here, for sure, it is a long tour and when you add the IPL, you probably go on, especially without seeing your families. The important thing is you have to be prepared and come up with a game plan to manage yourself," said Cummins in a virtual press conference on Saturday.

The challenge does not end there. There are some major protocols in place for the entire duration of the league, where players have to stay inside a bio-secure environment. It is something similar to what the England and Australia players have been following in the current series. In that regard at least, it is not going to be something new.

It is the new norm and players have to get adjusted to the fact of playing without fans and staying in a bio-bubble as well, at least till the Covid-19 situation improves. The cases in the UAE for the last couple of days have also seen a spike, but Cummins is not too worried about it and is rather confident from what he has heard about the strict measures in place in the UAE.

"In terms of safety, I have got no worries at all, hearing about the length that they have gone to protect the tournament, the players, staff, it is huge. Here in England too, no stones have been left unturned, we feel really safe and I am sure that it is going to be the same in the UAE as well from whatever I have heard. I know it is going to be a bit different to what an IPL normally feels like, but I hope the cricket is the same," added the Kolkata Knight Riders pacer.

The other challenging factor could be the weather. They have to get used to the heat and humidity in the gulf for the next two months. But, with the likes of Cummins having played in the UAE, against Pakistan last year, he is aware how tough it could get.

"I have played in the UAE when it is super hot and that is a nightmare, so we will see. I do not know exactly how hot and humid it is now," said Cummins, who will be eager to help his team beat England in the second T20I at Rose Bowl on Sunday after their loss in the first game.

ENGLAND VS AUSTRALIA 2ND T20I
live on Sony from 6.45 pm on Sunday

Contracts of coaches extended

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

AS reported by this newspaper last week, the sports ministry on Saturday said it has extended the contract of nine foreign coaches and support personnel, including the High Performance Director of athletics, with an eye on the 2024 Olympics, the 2022 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. In July, the ministry had decided to draw up extended contracts for foreign and Indian coaches in alignment with the Olympic cycle.

This decision was taken by the ministry with a focus on the 2024 and 2028 Olympics, and to ensure Olympic-bound athletes are able to train consistently with one coach and work on improving their performance.

Speaking about the decision, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said it will benefit the athletes tremendously. "There is a well-defined roadmap ahead for our athletes as we eye the best of preparations for 2024 and 2028. This decision to extend the contract of the coaches will benefit our athletes as there will be continuation of their training with the same coach."

Canara Bank — Indiranagar Branch, Bengaluru
Phone: 080-25286759
e-mail: cb0430@canarabank.com

Possession Notice

APPENDIX IV under Act- Rule 8 (1) (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices on below mentioned date calling upon the borrowers/ guarantors, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices on below mention **within 60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notices are hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules on **3rd Day of September of the year 2020.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the below mentioned properties will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank,** for the amounts as mentioned below, and interest thereon.

1. **Name of the Borrower: Mr. M . Doraswamy Reddy & Mr. Vijay Sekhar, A/c Name: KARTAR CORPORATION**
Demand Notice Date :13.05.2020
Outstanding Amount Rs. 2,25,97,147/- (Rupees Two Crore Twenty five lakhs ninty seven thousands one hundred and forty seven only) plus interest and other charges thereon.
Description of the Immovable Property :
Immovable property bearing Site No-18 formed out of converted Sy No 44/1 Doddakallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, 2 acres duly converted from agricultural to non- agricultural residential purpose vide order no- B.DIS/ALN/SR.(S): 180/1986-87, dtd 17.08.1987 by the special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore now comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore measuring East to West:40feet North to South:66+76.9/2 feet in total 2860 sq feet BOUNDED: East by- site no 19 & 20, West by- site no 17, North by- private property, South by- 30 feet wide road.

2. **Name of the Borrower: Mr. Ramdas K. & Mr. Vijay Sekhar, A/c Name: Krishna Cement Blocks**
Demand Notice Date :13.05.2020
Outstanding Amount Rs. 1,91,31,846/- (Rupees One Crore ninty one lakhs Thirty one thousands eight hundred and forty six only) plus interest and other charges thereon.
Description of the Immovable Property :
Immovable property bearing southern portion Site No-7 formed out of converted Sy. No- 44/1 situated at Doddakallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli Bangalore South Taluk, 2 acres duly converted from agricultural to non- agricultural residential purpose vide order no- B.DIS/ALN/SR.(S):180/1986-87, dtd 17.08.1987 by the special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore now comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore measuring East to West: (70.30 + 74.30)/2 feet, North to South: (38.60 + 40.60)2 feet, total site measuring 2743.50 sq ft, BOUNDED:East by- private property, West by- 30 feet wide road, North by- remaining portion of site no- 7 belonging to K Jamuna & Shaik Lal Bahadur Basha, South by- site no 8.

3. **Name of the Borrower: Mr. Purushotham DG & Mr. Vijay Sekhar A/c Name: HMS corporation**
Demand Notice Date :13.05.2020
Outstanding Amount Rs. 1,59,12,103/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Nine lakhs twelve thousands one hundred and three only) plus interest and other charges thereon.
Description of the Immovable Property :
Immovable property bearing Site No-9 formed out of converted Sy No 44/1 Doddakallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, 2 acres duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide order no- B.DIS/ALN/SR.(S):180/1986-87, dtd 17.08.1987 by the special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore now comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to West: Northern side 65.9 feet and Southern side 62 feet and North to south: 40 feet and Boundaries BOUNDED: East by- site no 19 & 20,West by- site no 17,North by- private property, South by- 30 feet wide road.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 03.09.2020
Sd/- Authorised Officer Canara Bank

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI

No : EE/PRED/KLB/FLOOD/TS-5/TND/2020-21/1765 Date : 04-09-2020

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - CALL-2
(Through E-Procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of Work : **Formation of Road from Dongaon Village to Rajola Village in Chittapur Taluka Indent No. 77169/CALL-2,** 2) Head of Account : 3054-80-196-1-03-300 for the year 2018-19, 3) Amount put to tender : Indent No. 77169 Rs. **2,10,01,487.87,** 4) Class of Contractor : Class-1 & Above, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents : **04-09-2020 to 15-09-2020 upto 4.00 pm,** 6) Tender Form Fee : As per E-procurement Norms, 7) E.M.D. : Indent No. 77169 Rs. 3,15,000.00, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents : **04-09-2020 to 15-09-2020 upto 4.00 pm,** 9) Technical Bid Opening Date : **16-09-2020 After 4.00 pm,** 10) Financial Bid opening Date : **23-09-2020 After 11.00 am,** 11) For more details contact : Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Opp : Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head Office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi, 12) Website Address : **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

DIP/Kalaburagi/364/MC&A/2020-21
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineerig Division, Kalaburagi

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ (ಉ.ಕ)

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ : ಯ : ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ : 678–679 : 2020–21 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 27–08–2020

–: ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ :–
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ 2020–21 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ **KTPP** ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮ 2000 ರಂತೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ/ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 2 ದಿನ ಮೊದಲು NEFT ಚಲನ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೋರಿಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.
ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತು ಪಡಿಸಿ)	ಟೆಂಡರ ಮಾದರಿ P.W.D ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ವರ್ಗ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್–I: ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ಸಮಿತಿಯ 1) ಕ್ಯಾಂಜ್ಯೋ ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಗೋದಾಮು ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ಯಾಂಟೀನ್ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಪಕ್ಕ ತಡೆಗೋಡೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. 2) ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದ ರಸ್ತೆ ಬದಿ ಇರುವ ಗಟಾರ ದುರಸ್ತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಡೆಸ್ಕ ಸ್ಲ್ಯಾಬ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. 3) ರೈತಸಭಾಭವನದ ಬಾಕಿ ಇರುವ ಕಟಕಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಲ್ಯುಮೀನಿಯಂ ಗ್ಲಾಸ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು, ಬಫೆ ಹಾಲ್‌ಗೆ ಶೀಟ್, ಗ್ರಿಲ್ಸ್ ಹಾಕಿಸುವುದು, ಅಡಿಗೆ ಕೋಣೆ ಟೈಲ್ಸ್ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ, ಹೊರಗೆ ಪೇವರ್ಸ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಬಣ್ಣ ಮಾಡಿಸುವುದು. 4) ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಂಪ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ.	73,63,955=00	1,47,280=00	6 ತಿಂಗಳು (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತು ಪಡಿಸಿ)	KW-3 ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗ
2	ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್–II: ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ವತಿಯಿಂದ 1) ಉಮ್ಮಚಗಿ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಸಣ್ಣಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಒದಗಿಸುವುದು. 2) ಕಿರವತ್ತಿ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ಲಾಟ್ ಫಾರ್ಮ ಮತ್ತು ಕಂಪೌಂಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ.	67,73,750=00	1,35,475=00	6 ತಿಂಗಳು (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತು ಪಡಿಸಿ)	KW-3 ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗ

ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 11–09–2020 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ. 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 19–09–2020 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21–09–2020 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28–09–2020 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಫ್ ಲೋಡಿಂಗ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಇ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ 080–22485867 ಅಥವಾ 080–25501216 ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ಇವರುಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ

QuoteExpress
IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING › WINSTON CHURCHILL

Drugs used to treat initial signs of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) can also improve the early stages of heart disease, according to a new study in the journal *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases.*

Less screen time and more green time are associated with better psychological outcomes among children and adolescents, said researchers in a study published in the journal *PLOS ONE.*

EXFILE

Mars rover's identical sibling on Earth

As NASA's Perseverance rover is not flying to Mars with a mechanic, so the US space agency has readied an Earthly twin of the six-wheeler in a bid to avoid as many unexpected issues as possible after the rover lands on February 18, 2021. We take a look

WHY DOES PERSEVERANCE NEED A TWIN?

Since, Perseverance isn't a manned mission, to avoid chances of unexpected issues after the rover lands on Mars, the team needs this Earth-bound vehicle system test bed (VSTB) rover to gauge how hardware and software will perform before they transmit commands up to Perseverance on Mars

This rover model will be particularly useful for completing a full set of software tests so the team can send up patches while Perseverance is en route to Mars or after it has landed

TESTING ON MARS-LIKE ENVIRONMENT

Engineers expect to take it out next week into the Mars Yard, where a field of red dirt studded with rocks and other obstacles simulates the Red Planet's surface

This is the test robot that comes closest to simulating the actual mission operations Perseverance will experience on Mars — with wheels, eyes, and brains all together — so this rover is going to be especially fun to work with

Anais Zarifian, mobility test bed engineer at JPL

EARTH ROVER READY

The full-scale engineering version of the Mars 2020 Perseverance rover moved into its garage home at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California

It is outfitted with wheels, cameras, and powerful computers to help it drive autonomously

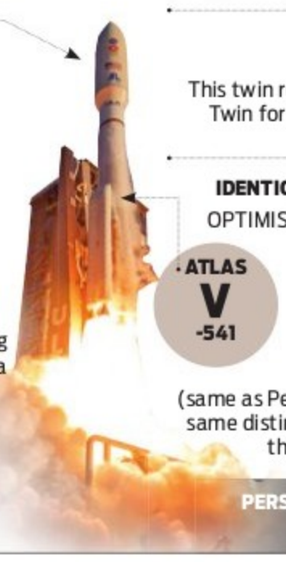
Last week, the rover model passed its first driving test in a relatively tame warehouse-like assembly room

30/06/20

PERSEVERANCE ROVER LAUNCHED TO MARS

It carried with it a sophisticated sampling system with drill bits, a coring arm, and sample tubes

Perseverance will collect samples from several spots on Mars for return to Earth



OPTIMISM

This twin rover is called OPTIMISM, short for Operational Perseverance Twin for Integration of Mechanisms and Instruments Sent to Mars

IDENTICAL TO PERSEVERANCE

OPTIMISM is nearly identical to Perseverance

TOP DRIVING SPEED

0.15 KMPH

(same as Perseverance). It has the same distinctive 'head', known as the remote sensing mast

DIFFERENCES

While Perseverance gets its power from a multi-mission radioisotope thermoelectric generator, OPTIMISM has a cord that can be plugged in for electrical power. It also provides an ethernet connection, allowing the mission team to send commands to and receive engineering data back

PERSEVERANCE DESIGN The Perseverance rover was designed with help from Curiosity's engineering team, and was built to be more robust than the latter

Risk of famine haunts 4 countries, warns UN chief

Violence and political instability drive disastrous levels of food insecurity in Congo, Yemen, northeast Nigeria and South Sudan

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that there is a risk of famine and widespread food insecurity in four countries affected by conflict — Congo, Yemen, northeast Nigeria and South Sudan — and the lives of millions of people are in danger.

In a note to Security Council members obtained by *The Associated Press* on Friday, the UN chief said the four countries rank "among the largest food crises in the world," according to the *2020 Global Report on Food Crises* and recent food security analyses. But funding to help is very low, he said.

"Action is needed now," Guterres said. "Having endured years of armed conflict and related violence, the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yemen, northeast Nigeria and South Sudan are again facing the specter of heightened food insecurity and potentially famine."

The UN chief said key indicators "are similarly deteriorating" in a number of other conflict-hit countries including Somalia, Burkina Faso and Afghanistan.

"The situation varies from country to country, but civilians are being killed, injured and displaced; livelihoods are destroyed; and availability of and access to food disrupted, amid growing fragility," Guterres said. "At the same time, humanitarian operations are attacked, delayed or obstructed from delivering life-saving assistance."

He said food insecurity in conflict-affected countries "is now further exacerbated by natural disasters, economic shocks and public health crises, all compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic."

Having endured years of armed conflict and related violence, the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yemen, northeast Nigeria and South Sudan are again facing the spectre of heightened food insecurity and potentially famine

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General

UN humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock said in an interview with *AP* that the economic fallout from the pandemic including lock downs, border closures and restrictions on movement have all had "a big effect on food security and agricultural productivity."

And extremists have taken the opportunity "to make hay out of all this," he said.

"Everybody is very preoccupied by Covid and the virus," Lowcock said. But "it is not the virus that's creating most of the carnage. It is other things, and we need to focus on the things that will really cause the biggest loss of life."

Lowcock said many of those things are consequences of Covid-19 — the economic contraction, the declining availability of basic public services, "the insecurity into which extremist groups are occupying themselves."

According to the secretary-general's note, escalating violence in volatile eastern Congo "is again driving disastrous levels of food insecurity and hunger," and the latest analysis "indicates that over 21 million people are in crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity." With only 22 per cent of the UN humanitarian appeal currently funded, Guterres said, "core programmes will need to be reduced or suspended."

In Yemen, where the international community mobilised to prevent famine two years ago, he said, "the risk is slowly returning."

A recent survey indicated that 3.2 million people in government-controlled areas are now "highly food insecure," and food prices are 140 per cent higher than averages before the conflict began in 2015, Guterres said.

In northeast Nigeria's Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, he said, "alarming levels of food insecurity and hunger have arisen largely as a result of the actions" of extremists affiliated with armed groups.

In South Sudan's Jonglei and Greater Pibor administrative area, Guterres said the situation deteriorated rapidly in the first half of 2020, "fuelled by escalating violence and insecurity," Guterres said.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Avengers game now on XboX

TECH BUZZ

Marvel's Avengers by Square Enix has been officially released with some editions on PC, Xbox, PlayStation and Google's Stadia cloud-gaming platform. Marvel's Avengers has a single-player story mode, but the game is meant to be played online with friends and the community, reports *9To5Google*. Square Enix has been building up excitement for its Avengers game for over a year now, and the title has been highly anticipated by fans as one of 2020's biggest games. A key difference between Stadia and other platforms that have early access is the lack of a requirement to buy the game via pre-order. Early access also comes with the Marvel Legacy outfits.

Amazon fights fake reviews

5 STAR SCANDAL

E-commerce giant Amazon has taken down nearly 20,000 product reviews after some of the top reviewers in Britain were suspected to have accepted money or products in exchange for a five-star rating. The action by Amazon came on Friday after a *Financial Times* investigation flagged suspicious activities by nine of the top 10 reviewers on *Amazon.co.uk*. Amazon removed all of the reviews by seven of the users highlighted in the investigation. The reviewers profited from providing five-star ratings for products most of which were from little-known Chinese brands, according to the report. Promising an investigation into the findings, Amazon said it took such a fraud seriously.

Common cold helps prevent flu: *Lancet*

VIRUS INTERACTION

NEW YORK: Rhinovirus, the most frequent cause of common cold is capable of preventing the flu virus from infecting airways by jump-starting the body's immune defences, say researchers.

The findings, published in the journal *The Lancet Microbe,* help answer a mystery surrounding the 2009 H1N1 swine flu pandemic.

For the study, researchers studied three years of clinical data from more than 13,000 patients at Yale-New Haven Hospital in the US with symptoms of respiratory infection. The researchers found that even during months when both viruses were active if the common cold virus was present, the flu virus was not.

"When we looked at the data, it became clear that very few people had both viruses at the same time," said study senior author Ellen Foxman from the Yale University.

Foxman stressed that scientists do not know whether the annual seasonal spread of the common cold virus will have a similar impact on infection rates of those exposed to the coronavirus that causes Covid-19.

"It is impossible to predict how two viruses will interact without doing the research," she said.

To test how the rhinovirus and the influenza virus interact, Foxman's lab-created human airway tissue from stem cells that give rise to epithelial cells, which line the airways of the lung and are a chief target of respiratory viruses.

They found that after the tissue had been exposed to rhinovirus, the influenza virus was unable to infect the tissue."The antiviral defences were already turned on before the flu virus arrived," she said.

The presence of rhinovirus triggered production of the antiviral agent interferon, which is part of the early immune system response to the invasion of pathogens.

"The effect lasted for at least five days," Foxman said.

OPPO to launch TikTok-like platform

FILLING A VOID?

HONG KONG: With TikTok facing challenges in some of its biggest markets such as India and the US, Chinese smartphone maker OPPO is mulling to build its own short video platform, the media has reported.

While details about the platform are still scarce, the world's fifth-largest smartphone vendor may launch the service later this year, a top executive of the company told the Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post*.

"We're about to launch our short video service in the second half of this year," Jimmy Yi, President of Oppo Asia-Pacific, was quoted as saying in a recent interview.

If OPPO indeed rolls out such an initiative, it could become the first major smartphone maker to have built-in short video app on its devices. This is a bit surprising because among the Android smartphone brand, only Xiaomi appears to have taken a services strategy seriously so far.

OPPO revealed its plan for a short video service at a time when TikTok is facing threat of a ban in the US if the ByteDance-owned platform does not quickly sell its US operations. TikTok and 58 other apps were banned by India in June.

SUMMER VIBES

Two Palestinian men dive in a natural spring known as Ein Fara'a, near the village of Dura, near the southern West Bank town of Hebron on Saturday | AFP

FRESH LEAF

World's loneliest elephant to leave Pakistan zoo to start a jumbo life in Cambodia

RELOCATION

ISLAMABAD: An elephant who has become a cause celebre for animal rights activists around the world will be allowed to leave his Pakistani zoo and transferred to better conditions, the animal welfare group helping with the case said on Saturday.

Dubbed the 'world's loneliest elephant' by his supporters, Kaavan has languished at a zoo in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad for more than 35 years.

Martin Bauer, a spokesman for Four Paws, said the elephant has been finally given medical approval to travel, most likely to Cambodia, where he will find companionship and better conditions.

The overweight elephant Kaavan underwent a full medical examination at the zoo on Friday, said Bauer.

In May, Pakistan's High Court ordered the Marghazar Zoo closed because of its abysmal conditions blamed on systemic negligence.

Rescuing Kaavan from the zoo's dire conditions attracted the attention of animal activists around the world, and celebrities including US singer Cher, who lobbied for his relocation.

"Unfortunately, the rescue comes too late for two lions that died during an attempted transfer at the end of July after local animal handlers set a fire in their enclosure to force them into their transport crates," Bauer said in a statement released on Saturday.

He said Four Paws was invited by the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board to safely transfer the remaining animals in the zoo. Kaavan has until now been forced to live a solitary life in a small enclosure.

A veterinary from the international animal welfare organization 'Four Paws' offers comfort to Kaavan prior to his examination at the Marghazar Zoo on Friday | AP

Friday's medical examination showed the elephant was overweight, even as he showed signs of malnutrition. His nails were cracked and overgrown apparently from years of living in an improper enclosure with flooring that damaged his feet.

"Following the checks, which confirmed Kaavan is strong enough, steps will now be taken to finalise his relocation to an animal sanctuary potentially in Cambodia," Bauer said.

His recovery will be a long one, said Bauer, adding that Kaavan's wounds are more than just physical. He also suffers behavioural issues.

Kaavan, who lost his partner in 2012, has battled loneliness as well as poor living conditions. Both have taken their toll, said Bauer in an interview. It wasn't immediately known when Kaavan would be able to travel. Rights activists have lobbied for his relocation since 2016.